

31st August, 1933

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

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(22nd August to 4th September, 1933)

SIXTH SESSION

OF THE

FOURTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,
1933



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Legislative Assembly.

President :

THE HONOURABLE SIR SHANMUKHAM CHETTY, K.C.I.E.

Deputy President :

MR. ABDUL MATIN CHAUDHURY, M.L.A.

Panel of Chairmen :

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MR. K. C. NEOGY, M.L.A.

SIR LESLIE HUDSON, KT., M.L.A.

SIR ABDULLA-AL-MAMUN SUHRAWARDY, KT., M.L.A.

Secretary :

MIAN MUHAMMAD RAFI, BAR.-AT-LAW.

Assistant of the Secretary :

RAI BAHADUR D. DUTT.

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CAPTAIN HAJI SARDAR NUR AHMAD KHAN, M.C., I.O.M., I.A.

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MR. B. SITARAMARAJU, M.L.A.

MR. GAYA PRASAD SINGH, M.L.A.

KUNWAR HAJEE ISMAIL ALI KHAN, O.B.E., M.L.A.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Thursday, 31st August, 1933.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Question No. 222. Lala Hari Raj Swarup.

Mr. A. Das : Question No. 222.

Mr. President : Have you been authorised to put this question ? Lala Hari Raj Swarup authorised Mr. Thampan to put this question on his behalf, but as both of them are absent, the Honourable Member cannot put it.

AGREEMENT ON THE PRODUCTION OF SUGAR REACHED IN THE WORLD ECONOMIC CONFERENCE IN LONDON.

222. *Lala Hari Raj Swarup : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if any agreement on the production of sugar has been reached between the various representatives assembled in the World Economic Conference in London ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the details of such agreement ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state what undertakings the members of the Indian Delegation have given on behalf of India ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

APPEALS PENDING BEFORE EACH ASSISTANT INCOME-TAX COMMISSIONER IN THE UNITED PROVINCES.

223. *Mr. A. Das : (a) Will Government be pleased to state, how many appeals were pending before each Assistant Income-tax Commissioner in the United Provinces upto 31st March, 1933, in connection with assessments made by Income-tax Officers or Additional Income-tax Officers ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to give the names of Income-tax Officers or Additional Income-tax Officers and the number of their cases which are up in appeal before their Assistant Commissioners in the United Provinces ?

(c) What examination in Law, LL.B., or especially in the Indian Evidence Act, are Income-tax Officers or Additional Income-tax Officers required to pass before they are appointed and how many such Income-tax Officers or Additional Income-tax Officers passed the LL.B., or a similar standard in the Law of Evidence as per Indian Evidence Act ?

(d) Are Government aware of the alarming increase in appeals to Assistant Commissioners of Income-tax against the assessments made by Income-tax Officers and Additional Income-tax Officers, and have any confidential Revenue Board Circulars been issued on the subject ?

(e) Are Government aware of the harassment, expense and worry to the public referred to in part (d) above ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) A statement is laid on the table.

(b) It is not in the public interest to give detailed information regarding the work of individual officers.

(c) Income-tax Officers are not required to pass any of the examinations specified. They have, however, to pass a departmental examination in Income-tax Law and Rules, etc., before they are confirmed as such. The latter part of the question does not therefore arise.

(d) Owing to the lowering of the minimum taxable limit and the consequent very large increase in the number of assesseees, the number of appeals has increased, but Government have no reason to suppose that the increase is 'alarming'. The Central Board of Revenue has not issued any confidential circulars on the subject.

(e) The answer is in the negative as beyond the ordinary trouble and expense involved in prosecuting an appeal, there is nothing special in these cases.

Statement showing the number of appeals pending before each Assistant Commissioner of Income-tax in the United Provinces in the year 1932-33.

Charge.						Number of appeals.
Assistant Commissioner—						
Meerut	..	..	..	..	..	1,118
Cawnpore	..	..	..	..	..	1,142
Allahabad	..	..	..	..	..	1,338

Mr. A. Das : How are the appointments of Assistant Income-tax Officers made ? Are they made by selection or by nomination ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : I think I must ask my Honourable friend for notice of that question.

Mr. A. Das : Will Government consider the advisability of having a competitive examination for the same ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : I will inquire into that point.

Mr. A. Das : Do Government consider the knowledge of the rudimentary principles of law as necessary for these appointments ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : I am afraid I must ask for notice of that question also.

Mr. A. Das : Are Government aware that such appointments have been made from the ranks of Naib-Tahsildars who have no knowledge of law ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : I am not aware of that at present. I will inquire into the matter.

ASSESSMENT OF INCOME-TAX FROM GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES HAVING A PRIVATE INCOME OF OVER RS. 1,000.

224. *Mr. A. Das : (a) How many Government employees having a private income of more than Rs. 1,000 are being taxed for income-tax ? Will Government give the figures for each province ?

(b) What is the number of the Government employees who are paid rupees one thousand or more as their Government pay yearly, and who are taxed on their private income apart from the Government pay as compared with such similar employees who are not so taxed ?

(c) Are all the Government employees drawing a Government salary of Rs. 1,000 or more yearly required to fill up the income-tax return and submit them to the Income-Tax Officer of their respective districts ? If not, why not ?

(d) If the reply to part (c) be in the negative, are Government prepared to issue proper orders to tap this source of income or is it the desire of the Government to exempt them from such income-tax or afford them preferential treatment ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) and (b). The information required is not compiled.

(c) No. If every Government Officer getting a salary of Rs. 1,000 per annum or more is to be required to fill up a return of income, a large extra staff would have to be entertained, which experience shows is not likely to be justified by the results.

(d) This source of revenue is already being properly tapped. Returns of income are called for whenever there is a prospect of additional income being brought under assessment. Government do not therefore consider it necessary to issue any further orders.

Mr. A. Das : Are Government aware that there is only one central officer in each province for assessing the income on the Government officials and that they are not assessed separately in each district ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : I am afraid I did not exactly catch what my Honourable friend said, but I think I am right in saying that at present I am not aware of it, but I will inquire into the matter.

EXTERMENT OF MAULANA SULTAN AHMED FROM DELHI.

225. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Will Government be pleased to state why Maulana Sultan Ahmed, Naib Mufti of Jamiat-ul-Ulema-i-Hind has been externed from Delhi ? Will Government be pleased to state the nature of his activities which were considered objectionable and also whether this organisation has been declared an unlawful association ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : Maulana Sultan Ahmed was externed for activities calculated to stir up disaffection against the Government. The Jamiat-ul-Ulema-i-Hind has not been declared an unlawful association.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Are Government aware that the Jamiat-ul-Ulema-i-Hind has abandoned the Civil Disobedience Movement now ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I have received no official information to that effect, Sir.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Are Government prepared to allow Maulana Sultan Ahmed to come to Delhi if the Honourable Member is satisfied that the Jamiat-ul-Ulema-i-Hind has suspended the Civil Disobedience Movement ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : The activities of Maulana Sultan Ahmed cannot be described as activities merely in support of the Civil Disobedience Movement. He made an extremely violent anti-Government and racial speech.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Why was he not prosecuted under the ordinary law ? He might have been prosecuted under the law of sedition or any other proper section of the penal code.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : Well, Sir, I think it is possible that action could have been taken against him under the penal law, but the Chief Commissioner preferred to take the milder action of externing him from Delhi.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : If the Government were so sure of obtaining a conviction, why did they not take the obvious course instead of externing him without putting him to trial ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I do not know why the Honourable Member is so anxious that the Maulana should be sent to jail.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : So long as he is not convicted under the ordinary criminal law of the land, he must be presumed to be innocent ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : The action taken by the Chief Commissioner appeared to him the most convenient and I am not prepared to question his discretion.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Do not the Government realise that if the Maulana were prosecuted under the ordinary criminal law, he would have got a chance of refuting the charges that were lodged against him ? It may be that the allegations are false and he has not been given an opportunity to refute them.

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I fancy that in addition to a particular speech or two there were other activities which satisfied the Chief Commissioner of the desirability of making that order.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : Then what is the object of having the criminal law courts ? Is it not the object of the criminal law that every one should get a chance of refuting the allegations made against him ? Do the Government mean to say that every prosecution that they bring about ends always in conviction ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : No, Sir ; but I think in this particular case the procedure adopted was more convenient.

Mr. S. C. Mitra : It may be more convenient to Government, but what about the Maulana who is deprived of the opportunity to defend himself and justify his course of action in a court of law ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I think it was thought that it was more convenient for the Maulana himself.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Are Government aware that the Maulana Sahib was the Naib Mufti whose duty it is to decide religious questions ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : No, Sir, I have no information about the precise duties of the Naib Mufti.

POLITICAL PRISONERS CONFINED IN JAILS IN INDIA AND IN THE ANDAMANS.

226. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** Will Government be pleased to state how many prisoners convicted under the ordinary law or under any Ordinance in connection with the Civil Disobedience Movement or with the other movements connected therewith are at present confined in jails in India and in the Andamans ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : The number of persons, convicted of offences connected with the Civil Disobedience Movement, undergoing imprisonment at the end of July, 1933, was 4,683.

None of these prisoners are in the Andamans.

EXPERIMENTAL CHECK OVER THE TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS' WORK ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

227. ***Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that the East Indian Railway authorities are contemplating trying an experiment to conduct a super-check over the Travelling Ticket Examiners' work under the control of the Watch and Ward Department ?

(b) Is it a fact that for this purpose the services of Guards, Controllers, Gunners and Pointsmen, etc., are being transferred to the Watch and Ward Department ?

(c) Is it a fact that these men, who are going to be entrusted with the ticket checking work, are not qualified in Coaching and ticket checking duties ?

(d) Is it a fact that Travelling Ticket Examiners and the Ticket Collectors have to pass a qualifying efficiency test of ticket checking duties ?

(e) Why has the condition of periodical tests on the Travelling Ticket Examiners and Ticket Collectors been imposed ?

(f) Why have not the services of the existing Travelling Ticket Examiners been utilised for the purpose of this check ?

(g) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Guards, and other Transportation staff as mentioned in part (b) above are surplus to warrant their temporary transfer for ticket checking purposes ?

(h) What would be the approximate additional expenditure on this experimental check under the Watch and Ward Department ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : With your permission, Sir, I propose to deal with questions Nos. 227 to 229 together. I am informed that the Agent, East Indian Railway, has, as a temporary and experimental measure, decided

to utilise the services of certain staff who are available owing to slack traffic conditions to have a check conducted under the control of the Watch and Ward Department in addition to the ordinary check exercised by Travelling Ticket Examiners under the system recently introduced. The intention is that this experiment should be tried out for three months, and it has been reported that the approximate additional expenditure for the whole period is about Rs. 7,000. I am unable at present to give a complete reply to the various details that the Honourable Member desires to know, but I am obtaining a fuller report from the Agent of the East Indian Railway and shall place further information on the table of the House at a later date.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Is there any idea to try these experiments on other railways also ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I have already promised to obtain a full report and place further information on the table of the House. I have not got complete information on this point at present.

EXPERIMENTAL CHECK OVER THE TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS' WORK ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†228. ***Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin :** Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) If they have considered whether it will be efficient to place the ticket checking branch under Watch and Ward Department ?
- (b) Whether the Watch and Ward Department is responsible for the safeguard of financial interests of the East Indian Railway ?
- (c) Whether the Watch and Ward staff will be qualified to exercise a check on money matters concerning excess fare, etc. ?
- (d) Whether the Watch and Ward Department will be authorised to check the booking office records and other relevant documents ?
- (e) What is the present function of the Watch and Ward Department ?

EXPERIMENTAL CHECK OVER THE TRAVELLING TICKET EXAMINERS' WORK ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†229. ***Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state why such super-check on the East Indian Railway has not been conducted under the Accounts Department ?

(b) For what administrative reasons has the Watch and Ward Department been given control in preference to Accounts control ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether the Watch and Ward Department control will be consistent with the recommendations of Messrs. Moody and Ward, Officers of the Crew Enquiry Committee, on whose recommendations the Accounts control has been replaced by that of the Operating ?

(d) Will this experiment be conducted on any other State Railway or with reference to my question No. 849 and supplementary questions thereon by Sir Henry Gidney and Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad, dated 18th March, 1932, will the East Indian Railway only be selected for such experiments ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 227.

PROPOSAL TO CHECK ILLICIT TRAVELLING BY USE OF *Lathis* ON THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

230. *Khan Bahadur Haji Wajihuddin : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) if by entrusting the ticket checking work to the Watch and Ward Department the East Indian Railway authorities are contemplating to check illicit travelling by use of *lathis* and *dandas* ;
- (b) whether they are aware that such a step on the part of the East Indian Railway authorities will be a source of harassment to the travelling public ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT OF A CANTONMENT BOARD.

231. *Lala Hari Raj Swarup : (a) Will Government be pleased to state what are the rights and duties of the Vice-President of a Cantonment Board ?

(b) Can the Vice-President inspect officially any institution under the control of a Cantonment Board ?

(c) If the answer to part (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons why Mr. R. S. Vidyarthi, Vice-President, Cantonment Board, Meerut, was not allowed to inspect the High School of the Board officially ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to sections 22, 23, 215 and 241 of the Cantonments Act, 1924.

(b) Yes, if so empowered by the President under section 22 (2) or with the previous sanction of the President under section 242 of the Cantonments Act, 1924.

(c) There was no objection to the Vice-President's or any other member's visiting the school and making suggestions or criticisms as a result of such visit. It is, however, the policy of this particular Board, as expressed in one of their resolutions, that formal inspections should be left to the members of the particular committee concerned.

INTRODUCTION OF TENDER SYSTEM FOR SALE OF COUNTRY LIQUOR IN DELHI.

232. *Mr. Goswami M. B. Puri : Will Government be pleased to state :

- (a) if it is a fact that they introduced in Delhi tender system on a commission basis for the sale of country liquor from 1st of December, 1930, up to 31st March, 1932 ;
- (b) if it is a fact that during the period this system was in force the sale of coloured (spiced) liquor was shown 50 to 60 per cent. less than in both the preceding as well as succeeding years ? If so, why ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) No. The system introduced was the tender fee gallonage system which was adopted for five country liquor shops with effect from the 1st December, 1930, and for all the ten shops for the year 1931-32. The auction system was re-continued in 1932-33.

(b) The sale of coloured (spiced) liquor was 50 to 60 per cent. less than both the preceding as well as succeeding years. The reason for the decrease was that being dearer than plain spirit and having an unfixed sale price, coloured (spiced) liquor did not attract consumers at a time of acute financial depression. In addition, under the tender system, licencees have no reason to attempt to popularise spiced spirit by its sale at low prices as they are inclined to under the auction system when they have to find money for the payment of large monthly instalments of licence fees.

SALE OF COLOURED AND PLAIN LIQUORS AT DELHI.

233. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri :** (a) Will Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing the sales at Delhi of coloured (spiced) and plain liquor separately for the following years ?

- (i) 1st April, 1929 to 31st March, 1930.
- (ii) 1st April, 1930 to 31st November, 1930.
- (iii) 1st December, 1930 to 31st March, 1931.
- (iv) 1st April, 1931 to 31st March, 1932.
- (v) 1st April, 1932 to 31st March, 1933.

(b) Will Government be pleased to state :

- (i) if it is a fact that just after 31st March, 1932, when the tender system expired, the sale of coloured liquor again increased to a large extent in Delhi ? If so, to what extent ;
- (ii) if they are aware that the Delhi liquor contractors themselves converted the plain liquor into coloured one by mixing it with mineral coloured water, and were thus able to save and thereby deprive the Government to the extent of Re. 1 per gallon, being the difference of tender fees between the coloured and plain liquor ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) The required statement is laid on the table.

(b) (i) Yes. During the year 1932-33, the sale of spiced spirit increased in Delhi as compared with 1930-31 and 1931-32. But the sales figures for these two years were quite abnormal and it may be noted that as compared with the sales for 1928-29 and 1929-30, which were normal years, the sales of spiced spirit in 1932-33 were lower by 34 and 26 per cent., respectively.

(ii) Government have received no such complaints. 'Spiced' spirit cannot be prepared by mixing coloured mineral water with the plain spirit. If this course were followed, the spirit would be lighter in colour and strength and the fraud would be liable to detection by taste. The process which is carried out by distillery experts is not one which could be understood by an ordinary licencee. It is inconceivable that if any such

attempt were ever made even by a single licensee, it would not have been detected at once, as it would have led to complaints immediately from the public.

Statement showing the sales at Delhi of Coloured (Spiced) and Plain Liquor from the 1st April, 1929 to the 31st March, 1933.

Period.	Plain L.P.	Coloured L.P.	Total L.P.
(i) 1st April 1929 to 31st March 1930	17,410	14,196	31,606
(ii) 1st April 1930 to 30th November 1930 ..	6,276	4,469	10,745
(iii) 1st December 1930 to 31st March 1931 ..	7,122	2,363	9,485
(iv) 1st April 1931 to 31st March 1932	19,111	3,794	22,905
(v) 1st April 1932 to 31st March 1933	15,273	10,480	25,753

SELLING PRICE OF COUNTRY LIQUOR IN DELHI.

234. *Mr. Goswami M. B. Puri : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that when the Government duty on country liquor was Rs. 8 per gallon on 20 U. P., the retail-sellers purchased at the rate of Rs. 1-12-0 per bottle from the distillers and sold it at the rate of Rs. 2-10-0 per bottle in Delhi ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Delhi Government have during the current year reduced the duty on country liquor to Rs. 5 a gallon on 20 U. P., so as to enable the retail-sellers to reduce their prices and thereby check the activities of smugglers of illicit liquor ?

(c) Is it a fact that at present the selling price of the distillers is Re. 1-4-0 per bottle ?

(d) Are Government aware that the liquor licensees have formed a ring and maintained their selling price at Rs. 3 per bottle ?

(e) Are Government aware that due to the exorbitant prices of liquor charged by the Delhi licensees the consumers have been forced to procure their requirements from the neighbouring Punjab liquor shops or from otherwise than licit resources, and that the percentage of crimes has gone exceedingly high ?

(f) Will Government be pleased to state the increase in the number of such cases detected in Delhi in 1932 and 1933 over those in the previous years ?

(g) Are Government aware that the prices of liquor at the contiguous shops at Sonipat, Bahadargarh, Faridabad, etc., are, as in Delhi, not fixed by Government in spite of the fact that the licence fees of these shops have gone up abnormally this year, and that the vendors at those shops are selling liquor at moderate prices, which has resulted in an appreciable rise in the sale and the consequent rise in Government duty ?

(h) Are Government aware that the sale of country liquor in Delhi during the months of April and May, 1933, declined considerably as compared with the corresponding months last year ?

(i) Can Government assign any reason for the fall in sale in Delhi City during these months ?

(j) How much loss have Government suffered on duty owing to the decline in the sale in Delhi during these months ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) Yes. The rate of sale price was fixed by Government and retailers could not charge a higher price.

(b) and (c). Yes.

(d) Government have no information. The selling price of liquor in Delhi ranges between Rs. 2-14-0 and Rs. 3 per bottle.

(e) The higher prices prevailing at Delhi certainly prove an incentive to professional smugglers to smuggle liquor for profit.

(f) The total number of liquor cases detected during the past four years is as follows :

1929-30	..	..	9
1930-31	..	..	16
1931-32	..	..	7
1932-33	..	..	39

(g) This relates to a Provincial Excise Department and the Government of India have no information.

(h) Yes. The sale of country liquor in April and May, 1933, has decreased by 45 per cent. as compared with the corresponding months of last year.

(i) The higher sales last year were due to the competition caused by the entry of three Punjab licencees into the Delhi liquor business which resulted in the old licencees attempting to oust them by selling liquor at Rs. 2 per bottle for a short period with consequent large sales. The decrease in sales in April and May, 1933, is due partly to the economic depression and the increased number of people out of employment on account of the closure of the Jumna Mills and the reduction in staff of the Birla Mills.

(j) If the sales in April and May of the current year had been the same as during the same period of last year, the increased duty which would have accrued to Government would have amounted to Rs. 15,725.

MAINTENANCE OF A UNIFORM RATE FOR RETAIL SALE OF COUNTRY LIQUOR IN DELHI.

235. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri :** (a) Are Government aware that the retail sale licence-holders of Delhi have made a common cause and formed a clique to maintain a uniform rate for retail sale of excisable articles in general and of country liquor in particular ? If not, do they propose to enquire ?

(b) Is it a fact that the meetings of the Excise contractors are held at the residence of the Excise Inspector and the Excise Clerk ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Excise contractors daily visit the residence of the Excise Inspector from 7 to 11 A.M. ?

(d) Are Government aware of the questions that are settled on such visits ?

(e) Do Government know the reason why the Excise Inspector is a party at such meetings ?

(f) Are Government aware that some of the Excise contractors were influenced by the Excise Inspector to join the monopoly and thus had to run their business under heavy losses ?

(g) Are Government aware that there was a free interchange of agents among the Excise contractors of Delhi during the year 1932-33, with a view to check the selling prices of one another, with the express knowledge of the Excise Inspector ? If so, is any such interchange of agents permissible ?

(h) Are Government prepared to break such monopolies and take necessary action against the officials responsible for the nefarious practices in Delhi ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) Government have no information about such a clique. Maximum sale prices are fixed only for certain excisable articles but no such maximum has been prescribed for country spirit. So long as such maximum rates, where prescribed, are not exceeded, licencees are free to agree to sell at any uniform rate. In the circumstances, Government do not propose to make the enquiry suggested by the Honourable Member.

(b) No.

(c) No. The Excise Inspector at times has to see excise contractors in the performance of his duties.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

(f) and (g). No.

(h) No such monopoly exists.

ADULTERATION IN THE COUNTRY LIQUOR IN DELHI.

236. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri :** Will Government be pleased to state :

(a) if it is a fact that there is a general complaint of the Delhi public about the adulteration in the country liquor ;

(b) if they are aware that the licencees make the adulteration in that quantity of country liquor which may be required for the day's sale while the rest of the stock is kept intact ;

(c) how many cases of adulteration in the country liquor in Delhi have so far been detected ;

(d) if there was any attempt made to test the strength of liquor in the hands of consumers after the purchase from the retail shop ? If so, when and how many times were such attempts made and whether the results thereof were brought to the notice of the Deputy Commissioner ;

(e) if no such attempt was made, what is the reason therefor ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) Government have received no such complaints from the public.

(b) The excise staff when inspecting liquor shops test the strength of the liquor in bottles selected at random from the stock and in no case has the strength been found to be of a lower degree.

(c) None.

(d) and (e). No consumer complained about the matter and as the strength of the liquor examined at the shops was never found deficient, there was no necessity for such an attempt to be made.

HEAVY TRAFFIC OF COCAINE AND *Charas* IN DELHI.

237. ***Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they are aware that in Delhi there has been a heavy traffic of cocaine and *charas*, especially during the last four or five years ?

(b) Is it a fact that the present Excise Inspector has been in Delhi for the last seven years and the clerk attached to the Excise office for about ten years ?

(c) Will Government please state the activities of the Excise Inspector towards detection of Excise cases and the number and full details of cases detected by him independently during his term of service in Delhi ? If no case has been detected, what action has been taken by the Delhi Government against him ?

(d) Are Government aware that the Excise Inspectors in the Punjab are bound to show their detecting work independently every year and, if one fails to do so, the Financial Commissioner takes necessary action against him ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) No. On the contrary, conditions regarding the illicit traffic in cocaine and *charas* in Delhi have greatly improved during the last few years. The improvement is due *inter alia* to the vigilance exercised over the activities of illicit traffickers by the preventive staff.

(b) The present Excise Inspector has been in Delhi since April, 1927, and the Excise clerk has been attached to the excise office since 1924, with a small break in 1929.

(c) The present Excise Inspector, since he has been posted to Delhi, has detected eight important cases independently and has also taken a prominent part in the detection of a very large number of other cases. He has received a sum of Rs. 600 in cash rewards and several certificates during this period. The Excise Inspector has a large amount of administrative and office work to do and his primary function is to control and collaborate the work of the subordinate excise staff working under his control. It is not to be expected, therefore, that he himself will be able to independently carry out a large number of excise investigations. It is more important that he should control and direct the excise investigations carried out by the Excise Sub-Inspectors working under him, and of necessity, he takes a part in other excise investigations undertaken by the excise staff in Delhi. Besides the eight important cases mentioned above, the

Excise Inspector has been responsible for the independent detection of seventeen cases of minor importance.

(d) The question relates to a Provincial Excise Department and the Government of India have no information.

ALLEGED EMBEZZLEMENTS BY THE BUILDING SUPERVISOR OF THE VICEREGAL LODGE, NEW DELHI.

238. ***Sardar Sant Singh** : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the facts published twice by the *National Call* of Delhi under the Simla news regarding the embezzlements by the Building Supervisor of the Viceroyal Lodge, New Delhi ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state :

(i) Who was the Supervisor mentioned therein ?

(ii) How long did he remain attached to this particular post ?

(c) Is it a fact that after the disclosure of the facts relating to the embezzlements, he has been transferred to Ajmere-Merwara as Sub-Divisional Officer of the Public Works Department (Central) ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state :

(i) What pay and other allowances was he drawing as Supervisor of the Lodge ?

(ii) What pay and allowances is he drawing at present ?

(iii) Is it a fact that the post of Sub-Divisional Officer is a gazetted one and superior to that of a Supervisor ?

(iv) If so, did Government mean to give him promotion when ordering his transfer ? If so, for what services ?

(e) Did Government make any investigation through the Department concerned into the allegations of embezzlement ? If so, will Government lay on the table of the House the final report with full facts of the case ?

(f) Did Government hand over the case to the police for investigation ? If not, why not ?

(g) Is it a fact that cases of embezzlement are generally handed over to police for investigation ? If so, why was an exception made in this case ?

(h) Why did not Government contradict the allegations published in *National Call* so far ?

(i) Are Government prepared to show these papers to lawyer Members of the Assembly in order to convince the public that justice has not been defrauded of its dues by official influence ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I do not propose to give a detailed reply to the different parts of this question, as the question of disciplinary measures to be taken against the officer referred to is still under the consideration of the Government of India.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF THE VICEREGAL STAFF.

239. ***Sardar Sant Singh** : (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names of the persons, with names of

their respective communities, who are employed in the offices of the Military Secretary to the Viceroy, the Private Secretary to the Viceroy, the Press of the Private Secretary to the Viceroy, and the Viceregal Estate ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the proportionate strength of the various communities among the personnel of each of the offices, and the proportion of the salaries drawn by members of the various communities in each of the above offices ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : (a) and (b). I lay on the table a statement giving information about the communal composition of these offices. I cannot undertake to go into questions of the communal proportion of salaries.

Statement showing the various communities employed on the 31st December, 1932, in the Viceregal Staff.

(i) *Office of the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy—*

						Per cent.
Hindus	..	..	..	..	8	61.5
Anglo-Indians	..	..	..	..	5	38.5

(ii) *Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy's Press—*

						Per cent.
Hindus	..	..	..	..	19	50
Muhammadans	..	..	..	..	16	42.1
Indian-Christians	..	..	..	..	2	5.3
Sikh	..	..	..	..	1	2.6

(iii) *Office of the Military Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy and Subordinate Offices—*

						Per cent.
Hindus	..	..	..	..	8	40
Muslims	..	..	..	..	9	45
Europeans	..	..	..	..	2	10
Sikh	..	..	..	..	1	5

(iv) *Office of Superintendent, Viceregal Estates, Simla, New Delhi and Calcutta—*

						Per cent.
Hindus	..	..	..	..	27	77
Muslims	..	..	..	..	5	14
Sikhs	..	..	..	..	2	6
Indian-Christian	..	..	..	..	1	3

ABSENCE OF SIKHS IN CERTAIN OFFICES.

240. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that no Sikh is in service in the following offices : Director-General of Archaeology, Director-General of Indian Medical Services, Imperial Records Department ?

(b) Since how long has there been no Sikh in the above offices ?

(c) Is it a fact that orders have been passed barring the recruitment of Sikhs in these offices ? If so, when, by whom and on what grounds

were such orders issued ? Will Government lay a copy of those orders on the table of the House ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the number of vacancies which occurred in each of the above offices since 1929 ? How many of them were filled by Muslims, Sikhs and Hindus ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) and (b). There has been no Sikh in the office of the Director General of Archaeology since the 24th April, 1932. In the clerical establishment of the Imperial Record Department no Sikh has ever been employed. There is one Sikh clerk on the permanent establishment of the office of Director General, Indian Medical Service, but he was transferred temporarily to the Home Department, with effect from the 1st April, 1933.

(c) The reply to the first part is in the negative. The second and third parts do not arise.

(d) There were two vacancies in the office of the Director General of Archaeology in India, which were filled by a Hindu and a Muslim. There were seven permanent vacancies of clerks in the office of the Director General, Indian Medical Service, which were filled by a Muslim, a Sikh and five Hindus. There was no vacancy in the Imperial Record Department.

RECRUITMENT OF SIKHS IN THE OFFICE OF THE INCOME-TAX COMMISSIONER, PUNJAB AND NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

241. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Will Government please state the number of Sikhs in the office of the Income-tax Commissioner, Punjab and North-West Frontier Province and all its subordinate offices ?

(b) What is the percentage of Sikhs in these offices as compared with Hindus and Muslims ?

(c) Are Government prepared to order recruitment of Sikh clerks in future vacancies so as to make up the deficiency in the clerical grade ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) The number of Sikhs employed in the Office of the Commissioner of Income-tax, Punjab, North-West Frontier and Delhi Province and his subordinate offices is 30.

(b) The percentages are as follows :

(1) Hindus	..	..	..	..	48.6
(2) Muslims	..	..	..	..	36.2
(3) Sikhs	..	..	..	..	9.9

(c) The Government of India propose to issue no special orders to the Head of this Department. The Honourable Member must be well aware of the general orders laid down by Government regarding recruitment from various communities.

RECRUITMENT OF SIKHS IN THE INCOME-TAX DEPARTMENT, PUNJAB AND NORTH-WEST FRONTIER PROVINCE.

242. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) What is the total number of permanent Inspectors and Assistant Income-tax Officers in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province, Income-tax Departments ? How many of them are Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs ?

(b) How many temporary appointments of Inspectors and Assistant Income-tax Officers were made during the years 1930—33 ? How many of those were taken from each community ?

(c) Is it a fact that in the year 1932-33 all the Sikhs temporarily employed as Inspectors were brought under reduction ? If so, why ?

(d) Do Government propose to order the recruitment of the Sikhs in this Department in order to make up the deficiency of their representation ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) The total numbers of permanent Inspectors and Assistant Income-tax Officers of various communities in the Punjab and North-West Frontier Province are as follows :

				<i>Inspectors.</i>
Hindus	..	..	..	23
Muslims	..	..	..	13
Sikhs	..	..	..	3
Others	..	..	..	1
				<i>Assistant Income-tax Officers.</i>
Hindus	..	..	..	3
Muslims	..	..	..	4
Sikhs	..	..	..	..
Others	..	..	..	2

(b) No temporary appointments of Assistant Income-tax Officers were made during the years 1930-31 to 1932-33. Twenty-three new appointments of Inspectors were made in the Punjab in 1931-32. Eleven of these were made by departmental promotion and consisted of :

Hindus	..	..	..	6
Muslims	..	..	..	2
Sikhs	..	..	..	2
Others	..	..	..	1

The remaining twelve were directly recruited as follows :

Hindus	..	..	..	3
Muslims	..	..	..	6
Sikhs	..	..	..	3

(c) Yes, because the services of *all* the temporary survey Inspectors—whatever their community—had to be dispensed with, as the survey operations for which they were engaged were completed and there was no further need for them.

(d) I invite the attention of the Honourable Member to my reply to part (c) of his starred question No. 241.

SHIFTING OF THE IMPERIAL LIBRARY TO NEW DELHI.

243. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Will Government please state if it is contemplated to change in any way the status or management of the Imperial Library in Calcutta, and to shift it to New Delhi ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Proposals to convert the Imperial Library, Calcutta, into a copyright library are under consideration, but no change in the location of the Library or its status or management is contemplated.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is there any proposal to transfer the Library from Calcutta to Delhi ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : No, Sir.

CANCELLATION OF THE PASSPORT OF SWAMI BHAWANI DAYAL SANYASI TO VISIT FIJI.

244. *Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : (a) With reference to the reply of Government to my question, regarding the cancellation of the passport of Swami Bhawani Dayal Sanyasi to visit Fiji, that Swami Bhawani Dayal is a South African National and therefore the Government of India do not propose to make any enquiries, are Government aware that this gentleman possesses landed property in India and is a registered voter in the Province of Bihar and Orissa ?

(b) When and how has he lost his nationality or domicile in India ?

(c) What is the evidence in possession of Government to show that he is a South African National ?

(d) Have not the Government of India from time to time made representations on matters concerning South African Indians who may be Nationals in that country, and, if so, why have they refused to take action in the case of the cancellation of the passport of Swami Bhawani Dayal ?

(e) Is it not one of the primary duties of the Indian Agent in South Africa to protect the rights of the South African Indians, whether they may be permanent residents in the Colony or otherwise ?

(f) Are Government aware that sometime back, Doctor Malan, the Minister of Interior, described the Indians in South Africa as *aliens* in the Union Parliament ? If so, will Government kindly define their attitude with regard to the Indians who may be in South Africa as nationals or as temporary residents ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) Swami Bhawani Dayal Sanyasi is recorded as a proprietor of certain villages in Bihar and Orissa, jointly with his brother, but is not a registered voter in that province.

(b) and (c). Swami Bhawani Dayal was born in South Africa, retains his domicile there and travels to India on a South African passport. Government are, therefore, justified in treating him as a South African national and their view appears to be supported by the definition of national given in sub-section (a) of section 1 of the Union Nationality and Flags Act.

(d) Yes. According to the information given by the Honourable Member in his previous question, the communication from the Fiji Government was addressed to the Government of the Union of South Africa. It also related to a passport granted by the Government of South Africa. The matter was, therefore, primarily one for the Governments of Fiji and of the Government of the Union of South Africa.

(e) Yes. So far as Government are aware, the Agent was never approached by the Swami.

(f) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, the position of the Government of India in regard to the rights and privileges of the Indian community in South Africa has been repeatedly explained. They wish to see a progressive improvement of the status of the community and will always continue to work for this.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Did the Honourable Member receive a letter from Swami Bhawani Dayal in which he asserts that he is a registered voter in the province of Bihar and Orissa ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I have received a letter from the Swami, but I cannot recollect that he mentions in that letter that he is a registered voter. Anyhow I took the precaution to make inquiries on the subject from the Government of Bihar and Orissa, who, I presume, have information as to who is a registered voter in the province, and the reply which I have just given is based on their answer.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : The Honourable Member must have refreshed his memory before answering my question.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I do not know whether my Honourable friend suggests that in this matter I ought to take the information of the Swami, even assuming that he did say anything on the subject of his being a registered voter, as preferable to that of the Government of Bihar and Orissa.

RATE OF ELECTRIC ENERGY SUPPLIED BY MILITARY ENGINEERING SERVICES TO THE LAHORE CANTONMENT BOARD.

245. ***Mr. Jagannath Aggarwal :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the rate of electric energy supplied by Military Engineering Services to Lahore Cantonment Board for the public purpose of street lighting is annas four and pies six per unit, and the rate charged by the same Government Department in the same area from private consumers, consuming much less quantity of energy, is annas 4 per unit ? If so, why is Lahore Cantonment Board (a wholesale consumer for public purposes) being charged a higher rate ?

(b) Is it a fact that the same Department in Lahore Cantonment debits about annas two per unit for another public purpose of water supply ?

(c) Are Government aware that in the neighbouring Lahore Municipality the rate of energy charged even by a private concern for public purposes of street lighting is two-thirds the rate charged from private consumers ?

(d) What action do Government propose to take on the representation of the Lahore Cantonment Board in getting this unreasonable rate reduced to at least the rate charged from Water Works ?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. Both rates are all-India rates, that for street lighting being higher as such lighting involves a less economical load than the supply for ordinary domestic purposes.

(b) The rate is 3.7 annas per unit.

(c) I am prepared to accept the Honourable Member's statement. I understand, however, that the Lahore Electric Supply Company, Limited, has no "schedule rate" for street lighting but decides every case on its merits.

(d) Government have not received any protest, but are prepared to examine, on its merits, any representation on the subject which the Lahore Cantonment Board may wish to make.

FREE SUPPLY OF WATER TO THE LAHORE CANTONMENT BOARD FOR WATERING ROADS.

246. ***Mr. Jagannath Aggarwal** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that from long time past up to 1931-32, Government gave free water to Lahore Cantonment Board for watering roads (both Imperial Fund and Cantonment Fund) at Lahore Cantonment ?

(b) Is it a fact that from last year only (1932-33) Government have started charging at the rate of eight annas per thousand gallons, which comes to nearly Rs. 2,800 for this water, without compensating the Board for the expenses it undergoes in watering Imperial Fund Roads ?

(c) Are Government prepared to consider the advisability of removing this new and heavy liability from the Local Cantonment Fund ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) and (b). Prior to 1st May, 1932, a consolidated bill was issued monthly to the Cantonment Authority for all supplies of water provided by the Military Engineer Services for both domestic and non-domestic purposes—including road watering. The bill was never paid in full as the Cantonment Authority merely handed over to the Military Engineer Services their receipts from water tax *plus* any recoveries made for excess consumption in the case of metered connections, less collection charges.

The loss thus involved to the general tax-payer had to be written off by Government.

Since 1st May, 1932, the supply and payment for water for road watering have been regulated by an agreement drawn up between the Military Engineer Services and Cantonment Authority.

(c) No. The watering of all streets and other public places is one of the obligatory duties of the Cantonment Authority under section 116 (b), Cantonment Act, whatever may be the classification of the roads for purposes of maintenance.

TRANSFER OF CERTAIN ROADS FROM THE MILITARY ENGINEERING SERVICES TO THE LAHORE CANTONMENT BOARD.

247. ***Mr. Jagannath Aggarwal** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that nearly six miles of roads have been transferred from Military Engineering Services to Lahore Cantonment Board since the Reformed Cantonment Boards were created ?

(b) Is it a fact that two at least of these roads, namely, St. John Road and Fetherston Road, are important military roads leading to Lahore Cantonment Railway Station on which British and Indian Infantry Lines, Armoured Car Lines, Medical Store Depot, Brigade Parade Grounds, Rest Camp, and Military Railway siding are situated ?

(c) If so, what action or actions do Government propose to take in removing the burden of maintenance of at least these two military roads from the Local Cantonment (Board) Fund ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a), (b) and (c). Yes. Although the two roads mentioned carry traffic from certain military areas to Lahore Cantonment Railway Station, they are not classed as 'Military' roads because they are not required solely or even primarily for military purposes. They are used mainly by the public in the Cantonment. The classification of roads as 'Cantonment' was agreed to by the Lahore Cantonment Board. No action, therefore, is called for.

ANNUAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE LAHORE CANTONMENT BOARD.

248. ***Mr. Jagannath Aggarwal :** (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the note appended to the Annual Administration Report of the Lahore Cantonment Board for the year 1932-33 by all the seven elected members ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state whether the official majority and the power of veto under section 52 of the Cantonments Act, was used against the unanimous vote of all elected members present, in all cases mentioned therein ? Are Government aware of the repeated declaration of Government in this House that these special provisions exist only to safeguard legitimate military interests ?

(c) If so, what action do Government propose to take in the matter ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) Yes.

(b) Of the five cases mentioned, the official majority was used in two cases in the circumstances explained in the statements laid on the table on the 21st November, 1932, in answer to starred question No. 834, dated the 26th September, 1932, and on the 29th March, 1932, in answer to starred question No. 354, dated the 15th February, 1932. The power of veto was used in one case for the reasons explained in the statement laid on the table on the 13th September, 1932, in answer to starred question No. 353, dated the 15th February, 1932. In the fourth case Government advised the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief the Command that the resolution passed was illegal.

There is no record of any official intervention in the fifth case

I cannot trace any declaration in the terms referred to by the Honourable Member in the last part of his question. Perhaps he will be so good as to refer me to the proceedings of the House that he has in mind.

(c) Does not arise.

GRANTS-IN-AID TO LOCAL BODIES IN THE CANTONMENTS.

249. ***Mr. Jagannath Aggarwal :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether any amount is provided in the Central Budget for grants-in-aid to local bodies in the Cantonments ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, what was the amount actually granted last year and to which Cantonment Authorities ? Is it given for any specific purposes ? If so, what ?

(c) Is any portion of this amount reserved for furtherance of educational activities of Cantonment authorities? If so, what? If not, why not?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : (a) and (b). I lay on the table a statement showing the ordinary and special grants-in-aid given to Cantonments in 1932-33. The total comes to Rs. 1,29,000 divided among 21 Cantonments.

An ordinary grant-in-aid is given to enable a cantonment to maintain financial equilibrium.

A special grant is given for a scheme of public utility which a cantonment is not always able to meet wholly out of its own resources.

(c) No portion of any of the grants is earmarked for expenditure on primary education as such expenditure is part of the normal expenditure of a cantonment.

Statement showing the ordinary and special grants-in-aid given to Cantonments in 1932-33.

<i>Ordinary grants-in-aid.</i>						Rs.
Amritsar	..	..	..	..	..	1,895
Campbellpur	..	..	..	..	..	3,200
Sabathu	..	..	..	..	..	1,723
Bannu ..	..	..	..	..	..	800
Bisalpur	..	..	..	..	..	2,700
Mardan	..	..	..	..	..	2,634
Lebong	..	..	..	..	..	2,854
Jalapahar	..	..	..	..	..	2,596
Mingaladon	..	..	..	..	..	20,668

<i>Special grants-in-aid</i>						Rs.
Kohat ..	..	..	..	..	..	10,000
Jutogh ..	..	..	..	..	..	750
Amritsar	..	..	..	..	..	9,000
Multan	..	..	..	..	..	20,000
Jullundur	..	..	..	..	..	8,000
Shillong	..	..	..	..	..	7,750
Lansdowne	..	..	..	..	..	6,183
Naini Tal	..	..	..	..	..	5,638
Muttra	..	..	..	..	..	3,000
Wellington	..	..	..	..	..	4,000
Kirkee	..	..	..	..	..	5,500
Neemuch	..	..	..	..	..	1,000
Hyderabad (Sind)	..	..	..	..	..	6,000

APPOINTMENT OF CERTAIN TICKET COLLECTORS AS SPECIAL TICKET EXAMINERS IN THE LAHORE DIVISION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

250. ***Shaikh Sadiq Hasan :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state if it is a fact that a certain number of Ticket Collectors in the Lahore division of the North Western Railway have been appointed as Special Ticket Examiners recently?

(b) Is it a fact that out of these five men have been selected because they presented themselves before the Selection Board, although they were far junior to a number of Ticket Collectors already in service in the division in the matter of length of service ?

(c) Is it a fact that these five persons have been given lifts in pay ranging from Rs. 12 to Rs. 21 per mensem whilst the senior Ticket Collectors, who have thus been superseded, would have got a lift of Rs. 6 per mensem only ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state the financial loss the Railway would undergo through this distribution of these posts among the five junior persons ?

(e) Is it a fact that the majority of the Ticket Collectors selected for these posts have had no experience in the Flying Squad and under the Crew System, whilst most of those whose claims have been overlooked and ignored had experience in the Flying Squad and Crew System ?

(f) Is it a fact that on account of this supersession by junior men a large number of old Ticket Collectors will be for ever barred from exercising their rights as seniors ? If so, what is the number of men so affected ?

(g) Is it a fact that, with the exception of the five persons referred to above, all others were selected without even being present before the Selection Board ?

(h) Is it a fact that this selection has caused a great deal of heart-burning and discontent amongst the senior Ticket Collectors ?

(i) Is it a fact that the men so affected have all individually applied to the authorities concerned for deferring the selection and for a just consideration of their claims ? If so, what action has been taken on such applications so far ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : I have called for the information and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

DAMAGE DUE TO EXCESSIVE RAINFALL TO CERTAIN ARTICLES IN THE COUNCIL HOUSE BUILDING IN NEW DELHI.

251. ***Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that on account of rainfall in Delhi, water entered into the basement of the Council House building there, and damaged some records and papers, as well as some electric coils and other property ?

(b) If so, will Government be pleased to state what articles in the Council House building, or in other Government buildings in New Delhi were damaged, and what approximately is the amount of loss ?

(c) Is it a fact that the roofs of the Council House and other Government buildings in New Delhi were leaking during the rains ? If so, will Government be pleased to state if the leakage and the entry of the water into the basement are due to defective construction of the buildings ?

(d) What approximately is the expenditure incurred, or to be incurred, in removing these defects ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) and (b). Owing to abnormal rainfall the storm water drains headed up, and consequently a certain

amount of water entered the basement. No damage has been caused either to the building or to the furniture. The water penetrated to certain old papers connected with the Legislative Assembly Department and certain electric fittings in the basement, but beyond this no damage was done.

(c) Certain roofs did leak during the rains, but this was due to the abnormal rainfall. The suggestion that defective construction was the cause of leakage is not correct.

(d) The expenditure outside the ordinary maintenance grants will be nil.

PAUCITY OF MUSLIMS IN THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

252. ***Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon** : (a) Has the attention of Government been drawn to the article which appeared in the *Pilot* of Amritsar, dated the 9th July, 1933, under the heading "Medical Department, North Western Railway", describing the paucity of Mussalmans in the Medical Department of the North Western Railway? If so, are the contents thereof correct?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the number of officers and clerks working at present in the Medical Department of the North Western Railway, showing separately the number of Hindus, Muslims and others?

(c) Is it a fact that the Chief Medical Officer, his Personal Assistant, the office Superintendent and three Head Clerks are all Hindus as alleged in the above said article?

(d) Is it a fact that during the course of the last two months all the new recruitments of two Assistant Surgeons and four Sub-Assistant Surgeons have without exception gone to non-Muslims as described in the article?

(e) If the reply to part (d) above be in the affirmative, was there a majority of Mussalmans in the Department concerned that led the authorities to recruit non-Muslims?

(f) What steps do Government now propose to take so as to bring the proportion of Mussalmans sufficiently up in the said Department?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I have called for certain information and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

TRANSFER OF CERTAIN STATE PRISONERS FROM MUZAFFARGARH JAIL TO SOME OTHER JAIL.

253. ***Shaikh Sadiq Hasan** : (a) Is it a fact that Fazal Ilahi Qurban and Abdul Waris, State Prisoners confined in Muzaffargarh sub-jail, have requested Government for their transfer to some other jail?

(b) Is it a fact that one of their reasons for this request was that their relatives could not afford to interview them, as it required a lot of money to reach Muzaffargarh, and the other was that the climate of Muzaffargarh is not suitable for their health and one of them, Fazal Ilahi Qurban, is seriously ill?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state how many times they have been interviewed since their transfer to Muzaffargarh ?

(d) Why were they transferred from Multan to Muzaffargarh jail ?

(e) Are Government prepared to transfer them to some other jail ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : (a) No requests for transfer have been received from the State Prisoners.

(b) Does not arise ; but I may mention that both the State Prisoners are reported to have been in good health since their admission to the Muzaffargarh jail.

(c) Fazal Elahi has had three interviews since his transfer to the Muzaffargarh jail and Abdul Waris one.

(d) The transfers were necessary in the interests of jail administration.

(e) No.

DISTRICTS IN THE PUNJAB WHERE PEOPLE ARE ALLOWED TO KEEP SWORDS.

254. *Shaikh Sadiq Hasan : Will Government be pleased to state (a) the names of the districts in the Punjab where people are allowed to keep swords, and (b) the reasons why the people of other districts are not given the same privilege ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is referred to entry 3-A of Schedule II to the Indian Arms Rules, 1924, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House. Swords other than swordsticks are exempt from the operation of sections 13 and 15 of the Arms Act in the districts specified in clause (a) of the entry mentioned above. In the rest of the province the concession is, in the interests of law and order, confined to specified classes.

ILLNESS OF CERTAIN STATE PRISONERS DETAINED IN THE RAJAHMUNDRY CENTRAL JAIL.

255. *Mr. S. C. Mitra : Is it a fact that three Bengali State Prisoners, namely, Messrs. Surendra Mohan Ghosh, Jivan Lall Chatterjee and Benoyendra Nath Roy Chowdhury who are now detained in the Rajahmundry Central Jail, are suffering from various complicated ailments ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies I am about to give to his detailed questions Nos. 256 and 259.

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE HEALTH OF STATE PRISONER MR. SURENDRA MOHAN GHOSH.

256. *Mr. S. C. Mitra : (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Surendra Mohan Ghosh was brought to Madras last month for examination and diagnosis at the Madras General Hospital ?

(b) If the reply to (a) above be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state :

(i) the details of the present condition of his health, such as the complications, weight, temperature, etc. ;

(ii) the result of such examination ;

(iii) the findings of the examination as to the diagnosis ?

(c) Is it a fact that while Mr. Surendra Mohan Ghosh was detained in the Trichinopoly Central Jail, he was suffering from chronic dysentery ? Is it a fact that after an examination the Medical Officer there recommended to Government for his examination by specialists as it was suspected to be a case of intestinal tuberculosis ? If so, what steps have Government taken in that direction ?

(d) Is it a fact that Messrs. Surendra Mohan Ghosh and Jivan Lall Chatterjee applied some time back to Government for their examination by a Medical Board of Specialists, like Dr. B. C. Roy of Calcutta and others ? If so, do Government propose to appoint such a Board ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : (a) Yes.

(b) The Medical Board are of opinion that the State Prisoner is suffering from chronic dysentery. He has had several attacks since 1926, with periods of improvement, but recently there has been some deterioration in his health, with occasional slight fever. His weight on admission to jail as a State Prisoner was 99 lbs. and is now 93 lbs. As a result of this report the question of transferring the State Prisoner to a more suitable climate is under consideration.

(c) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The medical officer did not recommend examination by specialists, but at the Madras General Hospital the prisoner was subjected to a thorough X-Ray and pathological examination.

(d) The answer to the first part is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury : Will the Honourable Member tell the House how long it will take to investigate the matter of transfer ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I am afraid I cannot give any definite period, but a decision will be reached as soon as possible.

CONDITION OF STATE PRISONERS—MESSRS. SURENDRA MOHAN GHOSH AND JIVAN LALL CHATTERJEE.

257. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** Is it a fact that since the transfer of Messrs. Ghosh and Chatterjee from the Trichinopoly Central Jail to the Rajahmundry Central Jail, their condition has become worse ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : There is nothing to show that the condition of the prisoners has become worse since their transfer to Rajahmundry Jail.

APPLICATION FOR TRANSFER FROM THE RAJAHMUNDY JAIL OF STATE PRISONERS MESSRS. SURENDRA MOHAN GHOSH AND JIVAN LALL CHATTERJEE.

258. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** Is it a fact that Messrs. Ghosh and Chatterjee applied to Government for their transfer to some other cooler place, as they could not stand the unbearable heat at Rajahmundry ? If so, do Government propose to do so ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : Yes.- The question of transferring the State Prisoners is under consideration.

ILLNESS OF MESSRS. BENOYENDRA NATH ROY CHOWDHURY AND JIVAN LALL CHATTERJEE.

259. ***Mr. S. C. Mitra :** (a) Is it a fact that Mr. Benoyendra Nath Roy Chowdhury is suffering from various ailments, such as persistent constipation, indigestion and cruciating pain in the lungs and spine ? If not, will Government be pleased to give the details of his ailments ?

(b) Is it a fact that Mr. Roy Chowdhury applied to Government asking for permission to go to Europe for treatment as he did not improve his health at all in jail ? If so, do Government propose to send him to Europe ?

(c) If the reply to the last portion of (b) above be in the negative, will Government be pleased to state the reasons for it ? If not, why not ?

(d) Is it a fact that Mr. Chatterjee is suffering from phthisis accompanied by rise in temperature every evening ?

(e) If the reply to (d) above be in the negative, will Government be pleased to give the House the details of Mr. Chatterjee's ailments ? If not, why not ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : (a) The State Prisoner has kept rather indifferent health. He was recently examined by a Medical Board who reported that he had no organic trouble but was suffering from neurasthenia.

(b) The answer to the first part is in the affirmative. The question of the action to be taken is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e). The State Prisoner Jivan Lall Chatterjee was recently given a careful medical examination by the Superintendent of the General Hospital, Madras, in view of the fact that he was having a slight evening temperature but the medical report shows that he is not suffering from any active disease.

HORSE-BREEDING IN THE JHELM CANAL COLONIES.

260. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) With reference to the answer given to starred question No. 170, dated the 12th September 1932, will Government be pleased to state if it is not a fact that the Ziladar of the Army Remount Department still insists upon payment of Rs. 2 per six months per mare for *Nalband* ? If it is a fact, do Government propose to issue necessary instructions to stop this practice in future ?

(b) Are Government aware that the Ziladar of Mangwana in Shalpur District issued regular orders for the payment of these dues ? If not, will they be pleased to make an enquiry into this matter ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative ; the second therefore does not arise.

(b) I am informed that the Ziladar did issue such an order about two years ago to a man who had not paid his dues to the *Nalband* for 2½ years. Instructions were issued at that time to the effect that Ziladars were in no

circumstances to concern themselves with the rates payable, or with the collection of *Nalbands'* fees.

HORSE-BREEDING IN THE JHELM CANAL COLONIES.

261. ***Sardar Sant Singh** : With reference to starred question No. 210 answered on the 11th September, 1931, will Government be pleased to state if the practice of realizing subscriptions for the Horse-Breeding Society at Sargodha by the Ziladar of the Army Remount Department has been stopped or still continues ?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : Subscriptions to the Society are not realised by Ziladars, but by the members of the Society.

CONFERENCE OF HORSE-BREEDERS OF THE JHELM CANAL COLONIES.

262. ***Sardar Sant Singh** : (a) Is it a fact that a conference of the Ghoripals was held in Chak No. 27 S. B., Shahpur District, on the 24th and 25th of June, 1933 ? Is it also a fact that that Conference was not declared unlawful by any Government ?

(b) Is it a fact that the District Remount Officer, Sargodha, on the 10th May, 1933, ordered S. Jemadar Asa Singh of Chak No. 27 S. B. to refrain from attending this conference, threatening him with the confiscation of his military pension if he acted otherwise ? Is it also a fact that this threat was administered to him in the presence of other military pensioners ? If so, do Government propose to take any action against the said officer for doing so ? If not, have Government issued any instructions to the District Remount Officer to that effect ?

(c) Is it a fact that a similar conference of horse-breeders was held in Chak No. 28 S. B., Shahpur District, in April last ? Is it also a fact that a threat of confiscation of the grant was held out to one Singha Mal, a horse-breeder, who was elected as President of the Reception Committee of that Conference ? If so, under what authority did the District Remount Officer administer such a threat ?

Mr. G. B. F. Tottenham : (a) I understand that a meeting was held on these dates, but I do not think that it could be described as a conference of horse-breeders as only about 40 attended out of several thousands in the Shahpur area. The meeting was not declared unlawful.

(b) The answer is in the negative. On the date mentioned the District Remount Officer was not aware that any meeting or conference was going to be held on the 24th and the 25th June, 1933. It is a fact, however, that he warned Jemadar Asa Singh in the presence of other Indian officers, to abstain from agitation against horse-breeding. Government do not propose to take any action against the District Remount Officer or to issue any instructions to him in this connection.

(c) A similar meeting to that referred to in part (a) was held in April last. The answer to the second part of the question is in the negative and the third does not arise.

Khan Bahadur Malik Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana : Is it not a fact that the majority of speeches and resolutions regarding horse-breeding were from non-horse-breeders at the last meeting ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I believe that is a fact.

Khan Bahadur Malik Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana : Is it not a fact that some of the resolutions were opposed by horse-breeders ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Yes, there was some opposition from the horse-breeders.

Khan Bahadur Malik Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana : Will the Honourable Member tell me who was the Chairman of this Conference ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I believe, Sardar Sant Singh.

Khan Bahadur Malik Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana : Will the Honourable Member tell me whether some representations were made to the local authorities before these Conferences were re-started during the course of this year as regards the grievances of the horse-breeders ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : The Director of Remounts informs me that no representations were made to him or to the local authorities on these questions.

Sardar Sant Singh : May I ask under what rule of law was Asa Singh reprimanded by the District Remount Officer and asked not to take part in the meetings ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I do not think there is any rule of law at all. It was merely his advice to this gentleman.

Sardar Sant Singh : When the meeting was not declared unlawful, may I ask how the District Remount Officer could reprimand Asa Singh ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I do not think any law is necessary to enable an officer to reprimand a person who is under his control.

Sardar Sant Singh : Is it not a fact that every person is entitled, as of right, to take part in a lawful meeting ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Yes, Sir, but, as far as I know, the Remount Officer never prohibited anybody from taking part in the meeting.

Sardar Sant Singh : What was then the occasion for reprimanding him in the presence of other horse-breeders ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : As I said, he warned him to abstain from agitation against horse-breeding. He did not warn him not to take part in the Conference.

Sardar Sant Singh : What is the meaning of the Honourable Member's statement that he was asked to abstain from taking part in the agitation when the meeting was lawful ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I think my meaning is perfectly clear and I cannot explain it any further.

Sardar Sant Singh : Is not every horse-breeder entitled to act as he likes so long as he does not infringe the rules or laws of the land ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Certainly, Sir.

Sardar Sant Singh : Then what authority had the District Remount Officer to ask him to abstain from such meeting ? Will the Honourable Member ask the Remount Officer not to go out of his way in future ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : He did not ask him to abstain from the meeting or from attending the meeting. He asked him to abstain from agitation against horse-breeding. As the Honourable Member is aware, these horse-breeders hold their land from Government under certain terms and conditions which are imposed for the purpose of encouraging horse-breeding. It, therefore, seems to me to be wrong and improper for any gentleman who holds such land to agitate against horse-breeding as a whole, and the District Remount Officer seems to me to have been perfectly entitled to warn this particular gentleman not to indulge in agitation against horse-breeding.

Sardar Sant Singh : Is there any condition in the grant of these lands that they will not give utterance to legitimate grievances even against the Remount Officers ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : No, Sir.

Sardar Sant Singh : Then why should the Remount Officer go out of his way to reprimand anybody when he is within his rights ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : He did it in the interests of the gentleman concerned and also in the general interests of horse-breeding.

Sardar Sant Singh : What can be the occasion for reprimanding the gentleman if he gives utterance to legitimate grievances ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I think I have explained that already and I cannot add anything more to what I have said on the subject.

Sardar Sant Singh : May I know who led this opposition against this Conference that was held there ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I can supply the Honourable Member later with their names. I have not got the records of the meeting here with me and I forget who they were.

Sardar Sant Singh : Then how did the Honourable Member agree with the supplementary question of Khan Bahadur Allah Baksh Khan that there was opposition ? How does he know that there was opposition ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Because I have seen the records of the Conference.

Sardar Sant Singh : Is it a fact that a Sub-Inspector of Police was posted there and that he advised people, who were coming to this Conference, to go and see a dancing match of prostitutes arranged in the next village rather than attend this Conference ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I am not aware of that, Sir.

Khan Bahadur Malik Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana : Has the police department anything to do with the administration of the Remount Department ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Nothing whatever, Sir.

CONFERENCE OF HORSE-BREEDERS OF THE JHELUM CANAL COLONIES.

263. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that the District Remount Officer, Sargodha, issued orders to those horse-breeders who had taken part in the Conference to bring their mares for inspection to the stables every week ? If so, on what authority did the District Remount Officer issue such orders ?

(b) Do Government know that the mares in foal suffer a good deal from heat during the months of May and June when brought from their places of residence to the stables for such inspections ?

(c) Are Government aware that the stables in some cases are situated at a distance of 13 or 14 miles from the villages where the mares are bred and that the mares have to travel all that distance in the sun in the months of June and July, causing great inconvenience to the mares and their owners ? Will Government be pleased to state the object of these inspections ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) Under paragraph 21 (5) page 124 of the Punjab Colony Manual, Volume II, breeders are always liable to be ordered to bring their mares to the stables for technical reasons connected with horse-breeding. Such orders were certainly not given to any horse-breeder merely because he attended the conference.

(b) The utmost consideration is given to the welfare of mares and young stock by officers of the Remount Department, and no orders are issued which are likely to result in harm to either.

(c) The majority of the villages are situated within three miles of the stables. The object of these inspections is to see that the stock is kept in proper condition and to give veterinary treatment and advice for mares and young stock.

CONFERENCE OF HORSE-BREEDERS OF THE JHELM CANAL COLONIES.

264. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** Is it a fact that the employees of the Remount Department attended the Conference and made lists of the grantees who had taken part in organizing the conference as well as in attending it ? Is it proposed to take action against any of those persons ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Certain employees of the Remount Department attended the meeting which dealt, *inter alia*, with horse-breeding matters. It was therefore an obvious concern of the Department to know the subjects discussed and the persons interested.

It is not intended to take any action against breeders on the ground that they attended the meeting.

HORSE-BREEDING IN THE JHELM CANAL COLONIES.

265. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** Are Government aware of the manifold grievances of the Ghoripals, and do they propose to instruct the Directors, Army Remount Department, to visit the Sargodha Colony and hear the grievances of the grantees ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Government have no reason to believe that there are any grievances except among the comparatively small number of horse-breeders who do not make honest endeavours to comply with the conditions on which they have been granted land. They do not therefore propose to take the special action suggested.

Sardar Sant Singh : Am I to understand that the Army Remount Department has any rules other than the conditions of the grant by which horse-breeders were permitted to take land ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I have no reason to believe so.

Sardar Sant Singh : Has not my Honourable friend received many complaints that, according to the conditions laid down in the grant, no resumptions of land can take place before there is a number of warnings for the non-performance of duty in regard to the horses ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I have not got all the conditions at my finger's end. If the Honourable Member wishes to have information on that point, I shall be glad if he will put down a separate question.

Khan Bahadur Malik Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana : Is it not a fact that large numbers of people are still desirous of accepting land on horse-breeding conditions ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : Yes, Sir, I believe that is a fact.

Khan Bahadur Malik Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana : Is it not a fact that many breeders make considerable profits from the sale of stock and prizes ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I think that is also true.

Khan Bahadur Malik Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana : Will Government consider whether some instructions could be given to unsuccessful breeders in order to make more profits from horse-breeding ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I believe the Department is already taking steps in that direction, but the suggestion of the Honourable Member will be borne in mind.

Khan Bahadur Malik Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana : Is it not a fact that the Director, Army Remount Department, tours the Sargodha colony every year and goes to Sargodha more than once in a year ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I believe the Director of Remounts tours all the colonies at least once or twice a year.

Khan Bahadur Malik Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana : Was any representation made to him during the course of this year as regards the horse-breeders' grievances ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I have no information on that point, but I think if such representations had been made, he would have told me.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know from the Honourable Member, who puts the supplementary questions, whether he knew the answers before he put these questions ?

Khan Bahadur Malik Allah Baksh Khan Tiwana : I am a horse-breeder myself and I know more about horse-breeding in my district than any other Honourable Member in this House.

HORSE-BREEDING IN THE JHELUM CANAL COLONIES.

266. ***Sardar Sant Singh** : Is it not a fact that the quality of the mares bred in the Jhelum Colony has improved a good deal ? Is it a fact that punishments are being administered in a larger number than were done in the past in that Colony ? If so, why ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : The answer to the first question is in the affirmative. For this great credit is due to the majority of horse-breeders. A small minority make little effort to fulfil the conditions under which

they hold their land and are dealt with under the rules in force. So far as Government are aware, there has been no increase in the number of punishments.

Sardar Sant Singh : May I know from the Honourable gentleman if there are any rules, apart from the conditions of the grant, which govern the punishment ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I think the punishments, such as they are, are all regulated by the conditions of the grant : but I am not quite sure on that point.

HORSE-BREEDING IN THE JHELUM CANAL COLONIES.

267. ***Sardar Sant Singh** : Will Government be pleased to state the condition under which a mare is required to be tested by the Remount Department ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : On the 14th day after being covered and on every 7th subsequent day until the 42nd day. These instructions are printed on the ticket issued to the owner of every brood mare.

HORSE-BREEDING IN THE JHELUM CANAL COLONIES.

268. ***Sardar Sant Singh** : (a) Is it a fact that the young stock of the Sargodha Circle is purchased by the Government for the requirements of the British Cavalry ?

(b) Do Government propose to order the purchase of similar stock for the Indian Cavalry also ? If not, why not ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : (a) and (b). Young stock horses are purchased in all areas for the requirements of both British and Indian Cavalry as well as for the other branches of the service, and are classified at maturity according to their suitability.

HORSE-BREEDING IN THE JHELUM CANAL COLONIES.

269. ***Sardar Sant Singh** : Will Government be pleased to state if any grazing ground is set apart in the villages for the young stock when they are let loose in accordance with the instructions issued by the Army Remount Department ?

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : There is spare land in every *chak* specially set apart for grazing.

EXAMINATION FOR RECRUITMENT OF NEW HANDS IN THE WIRELESS TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT.

270. ***Sardar Sant Singh** : (a) Was any competitive examination held in the year 1932-33 to recruit new hands in the Wireless Telegraph Department of the Government of India ? If so, how many posts were to be filled ?

(b) Is it a fact that originally two persons were recruited by competition and no post was reserved for nomination ?

(c) If the reply to (b) be in the affirmative, who are the persons who topped the list in the competitive examination ?

(d) Is it a fact that a member of the Government of India backed a Muslim candidate who had not come in the competition for appointment to one of these posts ?

(e) Is it a fact that the Public Service Commission was referred to to accept that Muslim candidate ? Is it also a fact that the Public Service Commission declined to accept that candidate ?

(f) Is it a fact that the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs created a new post in order to take that particular Muslim boy ?

(g) Are Government aware of the fact that the Principal of the Mogulpura Engineering College reported against the conduct of that boy as undesirable for Government service ?

(h) Is it a fact that this report of the Principal was endorsed by the Government of the Punjab ?

(i) Is it a fact that Sikh candidates who stood higher in the examination in 1932 or previous years have not been given any job ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) The Honourable Member apparently refers to the competitive examination held by the Public Service Commission in December, 1932, for recruitment for two posts in the Superior Telegraph Engineering and Wireless Branches of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, in accordance with rules published in a Resolution of the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour which was published in Part I of the Gazette of India, dated the 16th July, 1932.

(b) No. The recruitment of two qualified candidates was made by Government on the advice of the Public Service Commission and with reference to the provisions of the rules referred to in (a).

(c) Does not arise.

(d) There is not the smallest foundation for the Honourable Member's suggestion.

(e) and (f). The facts are not as stated by the Honourable Member. Subsequent to the appointment of the two candidates referred to in (b) the question was further examined whether the wording of the regulations might not have given a Muslim candidate, who had obtained qualifying marks in the examination, a reasonable expectation of selection for one of the posts to be filled, and the whole position in regard to the cadre and strength of the Superior Telegraph Engineering Branch was examined by the Director General in consultation with Government. It was found that if three candidates in all instead of two were recruited this would not lead to an excess over the sanctioned strength of the cadre. The qualified Muslim candidate was accordingly recruited after consultation with the Public Service Commission.

(g) and (h). The attention of Government was drawn to an incident in connection with the participation by this candidate, together with others, in the strike of the students of that College in 1931. This incident was brought to the notice of the Public Service Commission, and after a satisfactory reply had been received to certain connected

enquiries, it was not considered that the incident should prevent the appointment of the candidate to the service.

(i) In this connexion Government were concerned only with the results of the 1932 examination in which no Sikh obtained qualifying marks.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know from the Honourable Member if this competitive examination in Wireless Engineering is always held by the Public Service Commission, and whether it is held annually ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : The examination, which, as my reply indicated, is for appointments in the Superior Telegraph Engineering and Wireless Branches of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, is always held by the Public Service Commission, but I think it is only held when the need arises.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Is there any likelihood of its being held this year ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I should like to have notice of that question. I cannot say offhand.

RETURNS OF THE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN INDIA.

271. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Is it a fact that the returns of the Co-Operative Societies in all Provinces of India are called for by the Government of India by October every year ? If so, are Government aware that these returns are prepared by the employees of the Co-Operative Department in the months of July and August ?

(b) Are Government aware that these are the worst months as regards weather in the Punjab and the employees have to suffer great inconvenience when preparing these returns on account of the heat and close atmosphere ?

(c) Do Government propose to make any enquiry into the matter with a view to change the date from 30th September to 31st December ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) The returns are required to be submitted to the Government of India by the 4th October. Government have no information when they are actually prepared.

(b) No such complaint has been received.

(c) Government will consider the Honourable Member's suggestion.

PROMOTION OF GUARDS TO THE ASSISTANT STATION MASTERS' CADRE IN THE DELHI DIVISION OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

272. ***Sardar Sant Singh :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state the number of Guards who were promoted to the cadre of Assistant Station Master in the Delhi Division of the North Western Railway from January, 1933 to 31st March, 1933 ?

(b) Were the promotions made in order of seniority ? If not, why not ?

(c) Is it a fact that according to the orders of the Agent, North Western Railway, seniority is to be strictly observed in making promotions ? If so, why were those orders not followed in this particular case ?

(d) Did the record of services of the men who were not considered fit for being promoted to the Assistant Station Master's grade contain any adverse reports ?

(e) Had these men passed the prescribed examination before the orders of promotion were issued ?

(f) Have any representations been made by the aggrieved Guards to the Divisional Superintendent, Delhi ? If so, with what result ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : Government have no information. The matters referred to are all within the competence of the Agent, North Western Railway, to decide and I have sent a copy of the question to him for such action as he may deem necessary.

MR. SMITH'S REPORT ON THE STATE RAILWAYS SCHOOLS.

273. *Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen : (a) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 326 of the 9th February, 1933, will Government be pleased to state if the examination of Mr. Smith's Report, so far as the State Railways schools are concerned, has been finished ? If so, what decisions have Government arrived at in the matters dealt with in Chapters XIV and XVII of the Report ?

(b) When will the tentative decisions of Government be placed before the Central Advisory Committee for Railways as promised ?

(c) In view of the importance of the matter to a vast number of employees, will Government be pleased to place their preliminary decisions, if any have been arrived at, before this House ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : No. The matter is still under consideration and I regret I am unable to say when the Government will be in a position to arrive at tentative decisions to place before the Central Advisory Council.

STATUS OF TEACHERS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY INDIAN SCHOOLS.

274. *Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen : (a) Will Government be pleased to state if the schools maintained by the East Indian Railway for the education of the children of Railway employees are Railway schools and if the teachers employed therein are Railway employees ?

(b) Is it a fact that Sir (then Mr.) Allan Parsons, the then Financial Commissioner, Railways, said in answer to question No. 110, dated the 1st February, 1928, by Pandit H. N. Kunzru ?

"The Oakgrove school is under the East Indian Railway Administration and its teachers and those of the Indian schools maintained by the East Indian Railway Administration are Government servants."

(c) Are Government aware that on the 25th February, 1928, Sir George Rainy, the then Commerce Member of the Government of India, in the course of the debate on the Railway budget, referring to the schools maintained by the Great Indian Peninsula and East Indian Railways, said ?

"Now the schools of two of the biggest Company railways have come under the direct control of the State."

(d) Is it a fact that on the 21st February, 1929, Sir George Rainy, the then Commerce Member, Government of India, in the course of the debate on the Railway budget, said ?

"So long as the schools are under our control it is reasonable that the teachers should receive pay on about the same level as they would receive if they were employed in a school run by the Local Government."

Was not the pay of the teachers in the East Indian Railway schools accordingly assimilated to that of the teachers in schools under Provincial Governments ?

(e) Is it a fact that in reply to a reference by the Agent, East Indian Railway, the Railway Board in a letter, dated the 26th June, 1928, stated ?

"In the opinion of the Railway Board teachers employed in the schools maintained by the Railway administration for the education of the Railway children are Railway employees, even though the teachers may actually be engaged by the local committees of the several schools."

(f) Is it a fact that on the 12th September, 1929, in reply to question No. 445, by Pandit H. N. Kunzru, Sir George Rainy, the then Commerce Member, said ?

"The schools are the property of the East Indian Railway, the East Indian Railway belongs to the Government and I do not think there can be any doubt that they are Government schools in that sense."

(g) Is it a fact that in the East Indian Railway Provident Fund Rule 3 (7) the Oakgrove school is referred to as "Government Oakgrove School" and that in reply to question No. 795 of the 20th March, 1933, Mr. P. R. Rau, Financial Commissioner, Railways, said ?

"It is not intended to draw any distinction between the Oakgrove School and the other East Indian Railway schools. The latter are Government schools to the same extent as the former."

(h) Is it a fact that under a recent circular issued by the Divisional Superintendents of the East Indian Railway, the schools maintained by that Railway have been ordered to style themselves as East Indian Railway schools and not as East Indian Railway Aided schools ?

(i) Is it a fact that the names of the teachers employed in the East Indian Railway schools are shewn in the East Indian Railway Classified List of Subordinate staff of corresponding grades, and that the name of the Principal, Oakgrove School, is shewn in the classified list of Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways ?

(j) Is it a fact that the Agent, East Indian Railway, has recently ruled that teachers employed in the East Indian Railway Schools are not Railway servants in the same sense as the other employees of the Railway are ?

(k) If so, how do Government reconcile this view of the Agent with the previous declarations and answers given in this House and in the Railway Board's letter of the 26th June, 1928, referred to above and with the facts stated in parts (g) and (h) above ?

(l) Will Government be pleased to state what this ruling means ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) It seems to me, Sir, that this question is answered by my Honourable friend himself in the questions contained in other parts of this question, but as stated by me during the last

Session the matter is being considered in connection with certain suggestions made in Mr. Smith's report.

(b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g). I have verified my Honourable friend's quotations and find them substantially correct, except that I see no italics in the original.

(h) Government have no information.

(i) Yes.

(j), (k) and (l). Government have not seen the ruling referred to, but are obtaining information from the Agent, East Indian Railway, on the matter.

NON-TREATMENT OF HEAD MASTERS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY INDIAN HIGH SCHOOLS AS GAZETTED OFFICERS.

275. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen** : (a) Are Government aware that the Head Masters in all the provincial Government High Schools in the same scale of pay as the Head Masters in the East Indian Railway High Schools are treated as gazetted officers ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Head Masters in the Government High Schools in the centrally administered areas are also treated as gazetted officers ?

(c) If the answers to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why the Head Masters of the East Indian Railway Indian High Schools in the same scale of pay are treated as only subordinates ?

(d) Is it a fact that in their letter No. 1849-E.G. of the 17th March, 1933, the Railway Board wrote to the Agent, East Indian Railway, that the Board considered that the Head Masters of the five East Indian Railway Indian High Schools should be treated as gazetted officers, if similar officers under the Provincial Governments are so treated, and under the same conditions of limits of salary, etc., as the latter are subject to ?

(e) Has the said letter been given effect to ? If not, why not ?

(f) Was the Agent, East Indian Railway, requested to submit his views on the subject ? If so, have his views been received ? Will Government be pleased to lay a copy of the Agent's reply on the table ?

(g) Is it a fact that the said letter of the Railway Board was superseded after a week ? If so, will Government be pleased to state the reasons which induced them to change their views so suddenly ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) Government are informed that the Head Masters of Government High Schools in the provinces through which the East Indian Railway passes are Gazetted Officers belonging to the Provincial Educational Services.

(b) Some, but not all.

(c) Government do not think it necessary to follow the classification of officers followed by the Provincial Governments in this matter, but the question is being considered on its merits.

(d) Yes.

(e) The latest orders of Government are to the effect that the Head Masters of the East Indian Railway Indian High Schools should be treated for purposes of travelling allowances as first class officers if the Head Masters of Provincial Government High Schools, with whose pay their pay is assimilated, are so treated, and under the same conditions and limitations as apply to the latter.

(f) The views of the Agent, East Indian Railway, have been received and are under consideration at present. Government regret their inability to place a copy of the Agent's reply on the table as it is a purely departmental document not meant for publication.

(g) The letter of the 17th March was superseded because it did not convey accurately the intentions of the Railway Board.

NON-TREATMENT OF HEAD MASTERS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY INDIAN HIGH SCHOOLS AS GAZETTED OFFICERS.

276. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen :** (a) Is it a fact that the Principal, the Headmaster, the first assistant teacher, and the Headmistresses of the Junior and the Girls' sections of the Onkgrove School rank as officers, while the Headmasters of the Indian High schools rank only as subordinates ? If so, why do Government allow this discrimination ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for not giving these five Headmasters of the East Indian Railway Indian High Schools the status of officers as is done in the Provincial Government High Schools ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : (a) and (b). Government are informed that the posts specified were declared by the Home Board of the late East Indian Railway Company to be equivalent to the officers grade or the supervisory grade. The Head Masters of the Indian High Schools have till now been treated as subordinates, but the question of their classification for the future is under consideration at present.

ISSUE OF PASSES TO THE TEACHERS OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY INDIAN HIGH SCHOOLS.

277. ***Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen :** (a) With reference to Mr. Rau, Financial Commissioner, Railways' answer to question 793 (c) and (d) of 20th March, 1933, on the floor of this House, is it a fact that in the matter of travelling allowance the Headmasters of the East Indian Railway Indian High Schools have been subjected to the same conditions and restrictions as the Headmasters of the Provincial Government High Schools, with whose pay their pay has been assimilated ?

(b) Is it not a fact that under the said orders the Headmasters of the East Indian Railway High Schools have only been placed under the same disabilities and restrictions as regards travelling as Headmasters in the Provincial Government High Schools and have not been given the corresponding privilege of a gazetted officer's status which is enjoyed by the latter ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Headmasters in the Provincial Government school are treated as gazetted officers even though, on account of drawing Rs. 750 or less per mensem, they may be entitled only to second class travelling allowance under Fundamental Rules ?

(d) With reference to Railway Board's decision referred to in Mr. Rau's answer to question No. 793 of 20th March, 1933, is it intended that the Headmasters of the East Indian Railway Indian High Schools should continue to be styled as subordinates until they draw over Rs. 750 per mensem? Are Government aware that Headmasters in the Provincial Government High Schools are treated as officers even when they begin on Rs. 250?

(e) Is it a fact that on Railways there are employees, viz., the local scale officers, who though drawing only lower allowances than the first class officers are treated as officers?

(f) Are Government prepared to consider the desirability of removing all anomalies, both in comparison with the teachers in the Oakgrove School and with the Headmasters in the Provincial Government schools, by giving effect to their views contained in their letter No. 1849-E.G. of the 17th March, 1933, addressed to the Agent, East Indian Railway, and treating the Headmasters in the East Indian Railway High Schools as gazetted officers, and under the same conditions of limits of salary, etc., applicable to the teachers of the Oakgrove School, and the Headmasters in the Provincial Government Schools?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Government are informed that this is so.

(d) As I have already stated, this question is under consideration.

(e) There are certain officers in the railways who belong to what is called the Lower Gazetted Service, which is distinct from the superior services.

(f) The question is under consideration.

DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE OAKGROVE EUROPEAN SCHOOL AND OTHER EAST INDIAN RAILWAY SCHOOLS.

278. *Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen : (a) With reference to Mr. Rau's answer to question No. 795 of the 20th March, 1933, that it is not intended to draw any distinction between the Oakgrove European school and the other East Indian Railway schools and that the latter are Government schools to the same extent as the former, will Government be pleased to state :

(i) if the Oakgrove school is allowed to use service postage stamps ;

(ii) if the same privilege is extended also to the Indian schools ;
• if not, what is the reason for this differentiation ?

(b) Are Government prepared to issue instructions that this discrimination should be removed and that other East Indian Railway schools may be allowed to use service stamps, if they so desire ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : I have called for certain information and will place a reply on the table in due course.

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF INDIANS IN NEW ZEALAND.

279. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : Are Government aware of the number and percentage of the Indian settlers in New Zealand ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : So far as Government are aware the total number of Indians in New Zealand was 1,144 on the 31st March, 1932, or .075 per cent. of the total population.

DENIAL OF EQUITY AND FAIRPLAY TO INDIANS IN NEW ZEALAND.

280. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : (a) Are Government aware that equity and fair play are denied to Indians in New Zealand ?

(b) Are Government aware that Indians are harassed in New Zealand ?

(c) Is it a fact that obstacles are placed in the way of Indians entering New Zealand ?

(d) Is it a fact that Indians are not allowed admission to Cinemas and Picture-houses in New Zealand ?

(e) Is it a fact that in matters of passport Indians are not treated like other British subjects ?

(f) Are Government aware that boycott of Indians is preached in public meetings in New Zealand ?

(g) Is it a fact that a white New Zealander wrote in the *Auckland Star* of 24th April, 1926 " Indian is more of a menace than Chinaman. The statement that Indians are Britishers and cannot be excluded is all rubbish. A kitten born in a dog kennel is not a dog " ?

(h) Will Government be pleased to state what steps have been taken by them to reduce the hardships of Indian settlers in New Zealand ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) to (h). I would invite the Honourable Member's attention to the relevant portions of the answers given by me to Shaikh Sadiq Hasan's question No. 888 asked on the 7th November, 1932, and to the supplementaries arising out of that question. The Government of India made an inquiry on the subject of the present position of Indians in the Dominion of New Zealand and have been informed that, since the visit of Mr. Sastri in 1922, Indians in the Dominion have been in no way affected detrimentally. Activities of the White New Zealand League, which is probably in the Honourable Member's mind, and of individuals, who share the views of that body, need not be regarded as in any way influential or representative of the general attitude of the people of New Zealand towards Indians resident in New Zealand.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Is it a fact that they are considered untouchables there ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : No ; as far as I am aware, the doctrine of untouchability has not permeated New Zealand.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I also take it that they are not considered inferior there ?

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : You are considered inferior in your own country !

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Certainly not.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : So far as I am aware, they are not considered inferior.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask whether these conditions show that there is any discrimination against Indians ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : If my Honourable friend will recall to mind what I said in November 1932, he will probably realise that there is one small point in regard to which there is discrimination, and that is, that Indians in New Zealand are not eligible for old age pensions : otherwise there is no discrimination.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask whether Government are aware that under the White Paper the Government of India cannot pass any discriminatory legislation against any British subject even domiciled in the dominions and colonies ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I confess that I am not in a position to dispute with my Honourable friend, who has been on three Round Table Conferences and recently on the Joint Select Committee, the interpretation of the White Paper : I am really not in a position to deny or confirm what he says.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask whether the Government of India will take the trouble of informing themselves about this question ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I would suggest that in as much as the Joint Select Committee of Parliament is now seized of this question, my Honourable friend, if he is dissatisfied on the point, will raise it there himself.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know from the Honourable Member if he considers that the White Paper has many interpretations ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I do not think that that actually arises out of the question which I am answering.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : Is it not the business of the Government of India to protect the rights of Indians in this matter ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : So far as Indians settled in other parts of the British Empire are concerned, the Department which I have the honour to represent does look upon it as its responsibility to protect their interests there, and I should be very happy if my Honourable friend would suggest ways and means of removing the particular disability to which I have drawn his attention.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : Have not the Government of India considered that the right of retaliation against discriminatory treatment given to Indians is also one of the methods by which Indian rights could be protected ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : My Honourable friend will remember that in regard to the question of the entry of people settled in other parts of the Empire into India, there already exists on the Statute-book of this country a law which permits the Governor General in Council to make rules against their entry.

Mr. N. M. Joshi : May I ask if the Government of India are not aware that the points raised in this question are not questions as regards entry, but as regards the treatment given to Indians in the country itself after their entry ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : And I have answered to the best of my ability my Honourable friend's question. I have said that the problem is now before the Joint Select Committee of Parliament and my Honourable friend is perfectly at liberty to suggest there that the White Paper should be so amended as to enable the Government of India of the future to retaliate.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is there any officer stationed in New Zealand on behalf of the Government of India to look to the interests of the Indians settled there ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : No : no officer is stationed there.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Will Government be pleased to say what was their reply in connection with part (g) of my question ? I think that question was not asked by Shaikh Sadiq Hasan.

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I referred my Honourable friend generally to the answer given by me in November last to the question asked by Shaikh Sadiq Hassan. My Honourable friend in part (g) of his question asked :

“ Is it a fact that a white New Zealander wrote in the *Auckland Star* of 24th April, 1926, ‘ Indian is more of a menace than Chinaman. The statement that Indians are Britishers and cannot be excluded is all rubbish. A kitten born in a dog kennel is not a dog ’.”

I confess that my equipment for pursuing this point into the files of New Zealand Papers is not quite adequate.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : May I know how the Government of India keep themselves informed of the conditions of Indians in New Zealand if they have no representative stationed there ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : Well, Sir, we rely upon newspaper reports. As a matter of fact, we have arrangements in the Department for getting newspapers from every Dominion and every colony in which Indians are settled, and then, of course, our Honourable friends are sufficiently vigilant to draw attention to things at times.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Will Government be pleased to say whether this *Auckland Star* is included in his list of newspapers or not ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : No, Sir, it is not, because it is a local paper with no influence.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Is there any newspaper in New Zealand which is published by the Indians settled there and which voices their views and grievances ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I do not think that there is any newspaper published by the Indians settled in New Zealand, but there is an Association of Indians and Europeans jointly there which calls itself “ the New Zealand and India League ” and which takes an interest in the welfare of the Indian community.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Then why do you say newspapers ?

REPORT OF THE ENQUIRY ABOUT THE LEAVE RULES.

281. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether Mr. Sloan has finished his enquiry about the leave rules ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay a copy of his report on the table ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) and (b). No special enquiry was conducted by Mr. Sloan about leave rules. New leave rules for new entrants to the Governor General's services will, it is hoped, be issued during the current year.

PROPOSED RAISING OF THE AGE OF SUPERANNUATION.

282. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : (a) Do Government propose to raise the age of superannuation from 55 to 60 years ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how it will give them an immediate saving ?

(c) Are Government aware that the raising of the age of superannuation is not liked by the public servants ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) Government have no such proposal under consideration at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have no information.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : May I know what is the rule as regards superannuation of Europeans in India ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : I must ask my friend for notice of that question. I cannot give him the exact rule from memory.

CONVERSION OF THE PENSIONS OF CERTAIN OFFICERS FROM " VOTED " TO " NON-VOTED ".

283. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : (a) Is it a fact that in 1930 the Secretary of State for India revised the pensions of certain officers so that from voted they became non-voted from that year ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to place on the table of the House a list of those officers whose pensions have been made non-voted by the Secretary of State for India ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : (a) and (b). The Honourable Member is evidently referring to the rules issued by the Governor General in Council under sections 67 A and 72 D of the Government of India Act and published with the Home Department notification No. F. 207/30-Ests., dated the 15th October, 1930. The effect of the rules is to render non-voted the salaries, pensions, etc., of persons appointed before the 1st April, 1924, to the services and posts included in the Schedule appended to those rules. The notification in question was published in the Gazette of India, dated the 18th October, 1930, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : What is the reply to part (b), Sir ? I could not follow you. *

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : The reply to that is that the notification in question was published in the Gazette of India, dated the 18th October, 1930, a copy of which is in the Library of the House.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Will Government be pleased to state what are the reasons which forced them to take these officers from the voted to the non-voted list ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : It is in accordance with the provisions of the Government of India Act which lays down as one of the non-voted categories persons appointed before the 1st day of April, 1924, by the Governor General in Council or by a Local Government whose services or posts are classified by rules under this Act as superior posts. It is necessary to issue a list of these posts.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Am I to understand then that these officers previous to this were wrongly entered in the voted category ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : That was an amendment of the Government of India Act which was made by Parliament in 1925.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : So from 1925 to 1930 these people were wrongly entered in the voted category ? Is it not ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I am not quite sure, Sir, what the position was. I can remember that at a period long before 1930 we were engaged in the Home Department in preparing this list, and, why it was not published before 1930, I am afraid, at the moment I cannot say.

APPOINTMENT OF A FINANCIAL ADVISER TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER, ANDAMANS.

284. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : Is it a fact that a financial adviser has been given to the Chief Commissioner, Andaman Islands ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : The answer is in the negative.

LOANS DUE TO INDIAN STATES AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

285. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House a statement showing the loans due to Indian States and to the Provincial Governments on the 31st March, 1933 ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : The amounts outstanding on the 31st March, 1932, are given in Accounts Nos. 95 and 86A of the Finance and Revenue Accounts for 1931-32. Later exact figures are not yet available, as the accounts for 1932-33 have not yet been closed.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Did the Honourable Member suggest that the accounts for 1932-33 have not yet been closed ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : I did more than suggest it, and I said to my friend that it was a fact.

PAYMENT BY THE INDIAN STATES AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS OF DEBT
INSTALMENTS.

286. *Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Will Government be pleased to state whether all the Indian States and the Provincial Governments have paid the instalment of debts due in the financial year 1932-33 ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : The information required by the Honourable Member is not yet available as the accounts of the year 1932-33 have not yet been closed.

GRANT OF POWER OF BORROWING MONEY TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS.

287. *Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : (a) Is it a fact that under the existing constitution, Provincial Governments have no power to borrow money on the market ?

(b) Do Government propose to recommend to allow the Local Governments under the new constitution to borrow money on the market if they can get the same at a cheaper rate of interest or at more favourable terms ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) The answer is in the negative. Bombay, United Provinces and Punjab have raised loans in the open market.

(b) The attention of the Honourable Member is invited to paragraph 149 of the Proposals in the White Paper.

REFUSAL OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS' DEMAND FOR LOANS.

288. *Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Will Government be pleased to state whether they have ever refused the total demand, or a part of that required by any Provincial Government as a loan ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : Yes, demands have on occasions been partially refused and in the last two years the Government of India have informed Local Governments that advances will not be made for new projects except in cases of imperative necessity.

LOANS TAKEN BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS.

289 *Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Is it a fact that the Provincial Governments go on overdrawing on their current account throughout the year and then in the end take a loan of the minimum amount necessary to cover their over-draft ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : It is a fact that loans for this purpose can be taken at the end of the year, but it is not correct to say that Provincial Governments as a whole are overdrawn throughout the year.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Is it a fact that they are entitled to overdraw ? That was the question, Sir ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : It is a fact that they are entitled to overdraw, because we have no means of preventing them from doing so.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : When they overdraw and that amount is shown at the end of the year as a loan, who pays the interest for the intermediate period ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : My friend, I think, is asking what happens as regards interest on amounts that may be outstanding as overdrafts during the current year before they are actually taken as a loan. I am afraid I must ask my friend for notice of that question. It is a confusing point on which I should not like to give an answer offhand.

PREVENTION OF THE SALE OF BAD SALT TO THE PUBLIC.

290. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Is it a fact that in October, 1929, salt merchants were supplied with more than 49 thousand maunds of bad quality of salt, much of which was unfit for human consumption ?

(b) Was any step taken by Government to prevent the sale of the bad salt to the public ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : (a) 48,060 maunds of inferior salt were supplied from Kharaghoda to salt merchants in the United Provinces in October-November, 1929, through a mistake on the part of the officers there.

(b) No, as the salt in question was sifted and cleaned by the merchants before it was sold to the public.

Mr. B. Das : Did Government administer any chastisement to those officers who supplied bad salt ? My question is whether the officers at Kharaghoda were punished for supplying this bad salt to the public ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : I understand, my friend asks whether the Government of India administered any chastisement to these officers. I do not think that would be a proper form of punishment in that particular case. I don't think any particular punishment was administered to them at all.

MR. GANDHI'S TELEGRAM TO THE PRIVATE SECRETARY TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY AND REPLIES THERETO.

291. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table copies of the telegrams received by the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy from Mr. Gandhi and the replies which were given to him ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether the replies were given after consultation with the Home Department ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether they had consulted the Secretary of State for India in this connection ?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state their policy in connection with the request of Mr. Gandhi contained in his telegrams ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : (a) I lay on the table a copy of the telegraphic correspondence referred to.

(b) and (c). The replies sent to Mr. Gandhi were in full accord with the views and had the concurrence of the Government of India and the Secretary of State.

(d) I would refer the Honourable Member to the replies which state the policy of Government and to which I have nothing to add.

Telegraphic correspondence between Mr. Gandhi and the Private Secretary to the Viceroy regarding Mr. Gandhi's request for an interview.

Telegram dated the 15th July, from Mr. Gandhi, to the Private Secretary to the Viceroy :—“ Will His Excellency grant interview with a view to exploring possibilities of peace. Kindly wire.”

Telegram dated the 17th July, from the Private Secretary to the Viceroy, to Mr. Gandhi :—“ In reply to your telegram asking for an interview, His Excellency has directed me to say that if the circumstances were different he would have gladly seen you. But it would seem that you are opposed to withdrawing the Civil Disobedience Movement except on conditions, and that the interview you seek with His Excellency is for the purpose of initiating negotiations with Government regarding these conditions. It also appears to have been decided that unless the Congress reaches a settlement with Government as the result of such discussions Civil Disobedience will be resumed on August 1.

It is hardly necessary to remind you that the position of Government is that the Civil Disobedience Movement is wholly unconstitutional and there will be no compromise with it, and that Government cannot enter into any negotiations for its withdrawal. On April 29, 1932, the Secretary of State in the House of Commons stated that there will be no question of making a bargain with Congress as a condition of its co-operation. The same position has been consistently maintained by Government in numerous subsequent statements. If the Congress desires to resume its position as a constitutional party and to put an end to a movement, which has brought grave injury and suffering to the country the way is open to it, as it always has been, and it is within the power of the Congress to restore peace by withdrawing on its own initiative the Civil Disobedience Movement.

As, however, the Congress is not willing to take that action an interview with His Excellency will meet no purpose.”

Telegram dated the 17th July, from Mr. Gandhi, to the Private Secretary to the Viceroy :—“ Your wire of even date has come upon me as a painful surprise. I had not expected that the Government would take official notice of unauthorised publication of confidential proceedings of an informal conference and on the basis thereof reject a request for an interview. If the interview were granted, I could show that the proceedings taken as a whole were calculated to bring about honourable peace. The conference was undoubtedly favourable to peace, if it can be obtained without humiliation.

If, however, the Government hold that they cannot have any conversation even for promoting peace with a representative of an association engaged in activities in breach of state laws, however, repressive they may be, until that association first discontinues such activities which it believes to be in pursuance of an inherent right belonging to the human family, I can have nothing to say.

Nevertheless, I would like to add a personal note. My life is regulated by peaceful motives. I hanker for real peace, but I must confess that I cannot be satisfied with a make-shift. If I resort to non-co-operation or Civil Disobedience it is for establishing true and voluntary co-operation and obedience to laws in place of forced co-operation and forced obedience. I, therefore, hope my request for an interview will be granted.”

Telegram dated the 17th July, from the Private Secretary to the Viceroy, to Mr. Gandhi :—“ His Excellency had hoped that the position of the Government was plain. It is that Civil Disobedience is a movement intended to coerce the Government by means of unlawful activities, and that there can be no question of the Government holding conversations with a representative of an association which has not abandoned that movement.”

Mr. B. Das : Has the Honourable Member noticed the recent Press interviews by Mahatma Gandhi in which he said that he was more pleased to be free to work for peace than to go to jail, and, in view of that statement, will Government change their attitude towards Mahatma Gandhi and allow him to interview His Excellency the Viceroy ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : I see no reason, Sir, in anything that Mr. Gandhi has said to make the Government change their attitude.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Are Government prepared to grant an interview now ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig : No, not under the present conditions.

ABOLITION OF POSTS OF CERTAIN CADRES IN EACH POSTAL CIRCLE.

252. *Mr. A. Das : (a) With reference to questions Nos. 484 (a) and 485 (a), asked in the Legislative Assembly by Mr. N. M. Joshi on the 25th February, 1933, will Government be pleased to furnish this House with statements showing the figures of abolition of posts and conversion of departmental branch post offices from the 1st December, 1932 to the 30th June, 1933 ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state the amount of the saving effected, circle by circle, from the beginning of the retrenchment to the end of June, 1933, by the abolition and conversion referred to in the foregoing question ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : (a) A statement giving the figures for the period December 1st, 1932 to May 31st, 1933, is laid on the table. It is regretted that figures for the month of June, 1933, are not available.

(b) Government regret that they are not in a position to give figures of the savings actually realised in each Circle but the economies of the kind introduced in all Circles taken together are expected to yield, when fully effective, a saving of approximately Rs. 15,00,000 annually.

Statement.

Circle.	Number of departmental branch post offices converted into extra departmental post offices.	Number of posts of overseers (including mail and cash overseers) abolished.	Number of post of Head postmen, Postmen and Village postmen abolished.
Bengal and Assam ..	19	5	94
Bihar and Orissa ..	26	11	15
Bombay ..	32	1	143
Burma ..	16	7	31
Central ..	53	2	43
Madras ..	11	7	69
Punjab and N.-W. F. ..	14	3	65
United Provinces ..	24	22	129
Sind and Baluchistan ..	2	Nil	3

POSTAL CLERKS IN EACH POSTAL CIRCLE.

293. ***Mr. A. Das** : While furnishing the information asked for by Mr. N. M. Joshi on the 25th February, 1933, in questions Nos. 486 (a) and (b), will Government be pleased to supplement the same with information for the period ending the 30th June, 1933, and further state how many of the posts in the Lower Division of clerks were held on that date by men promoted from the rank of postmen ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : Information is being collected and will be placed on the table in due course.

RETRENCHMENT OF HEAD POSTMEN IN EACH POSTAL CIRCLE.

294. ***Mr. A. Das** : Will Government be pleased to state the number of head postmen brought under reduction in each circle from the beginning of retrenchment to the end of June, 1933 ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : Government regret that information for the period ending June, 1933, is not readily available, but the figures up to the 31st January, 1933, are as follows, and it is hoped that these will meet the Honourable Member's requirements :

Bihar and Orissa Circle	..	..	..	2
Burma	..	..	..	3
Central	..	..	..	5
Punjab and N.-W. F.	..	..	..	16
Sind and Baluchistan	..	..	..	2
Bombay	..	..	..	26
Bengal and Assam	..	..	..	2
United Provinces	..	..	..	8
Madras	..	..	..	Nil.

RETRENCHMENT OF CERTAIN POSTAL OFFICIALS IN EACH POSTAL CIRCLE.

295. ***Mr. A. Das** : Will Government be pleased to furnish a statement showing, circle by circle, the number of (i) mail overseers, (ii) overseer postmen, (iii) head postmen, (iv) sorting and reader postmen, (v) departmental branch postmasters, and (vi) postmen and village postmen who were retired compulsorily, i.e., before completion of their service or attaining the age of superannuation, as a measure of retrenchment, i.e., due to the abolition or conversion of the posts held by them ? Was this action based on any order to that effect ? If so, will Government be pleased to place on the table of the House a copy of such order ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : With your permission, Sir, I propose to deal with questions Nos. 295 and 296 together. Government regret that the information required for the purpose of a detailed reply to these questions is not readily available and could not be obtained without much time and labour. Generally speaking, however, the position is that on account of the unsatisfactory state of the finances of the Posts and Telegraphs Department general orders were issued to secure all reasonable economies wherever possible, for example the reduction in the number of

deliveries of ordinary mails, abolition of special deliveries of the foreign mails, larger employment of extra-departmental agents in smaller post offices, etc. Posts not only of the classes mentioned but also of other classes wherever found in excess of actual requirements have been or are being abolished or reduced from a higher to a lower scale of pay.

RETRENCHMENT OF INFERIOR SERVANTS IN EACH POSTAL CIRCLE.

†296. ***Mr. A. Das** : (a) Will Government be pleased to furnish a statement, circle by circle, showing the number of inferior servants on the postal side brought under reduction from the beginning of retrenchment to the end of June, 1933 ?

(b) While furnishing this statement, will Government be pleased to furnish the figures, circle by circle, and under different categories of runners, packers and of other inferior servants retired compulsorily, i.e., before they had completed their service entitling them to earn their full pension ?

SAVING EFFECTED BY RETRENCHMENT OF STAFF IN EACH POSTAL CIRCLE.

297. ***Mr. A. Das** : Will Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the saving caused to the Department, circle by circle, in the fixed establishment charges during the year 1932-33, by the process of retrenchment in the staff of clerical and non-clerical superior servants and inferior servants on the postal side ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : Information in the detail wanted by the Honourable Member is not readily available and in view of the labour involved Government do not propose to collect it. In this connexion attention is drawn to the statement supplied to the House on the 13th of March, 1933, which shows the total economies in the fixed establishment charges of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department under various classes of staff. A detailed statement giving information in respect of the same classes of staff but in detail for each Circle is being prepared and will be laid on the table of the House when it is ready.

SAVING EFFECTED BY THE DISCONTINUANCE OF ALLOWANCE PAID TO POSTMEN FOR THE DELIVERY OF FOREIGN MAIL.

298. ***Mr. A. Das** : Will Government be pleased to state the amount of the annual saving caused to the Department by the discontinuance of allowance paid to postmen of certain important places for the special delivery of the weekly inward foreign mail ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : The abolition of the special deliveries of inward foreign mails at Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Karachi and Rangoon has resulted in an annual saving of approximately Rs. 43,000 in the allowances paid to postmen and other staff. Government regret that separate figures showing the annual saving which has resulted from a discontinuance of the allowances paid to postmen only are not readily available.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 295.

SUPPLY OF UMBRELLAS TO THE OUTDOOR POSTAL STAFF.

299. ***Mr. A. Das** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that umbrellas which were hitherto supplied annually to the outdoor staff, have recently been ordered to be supplied biennially ?

(b) If so, will Government state whether any instructions have been issued for the purchase of umbrellas of a better make so that they may continue serviceable for the stipulated period of two years ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the average cost of an umbrella, and the annual saving effected by the curtailment in the supply ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : I reply on the assumption that the question relates to the Posts and Telegraphs Department.

(a) Yes, but the orders were issued in May, 1931.

(b) No, as no complaint has yet been received that the umbrellas hitherto supplied were not lasting for two years.

(c) The cost of one umbrella is Rs. 1-4-0 and the saving is the amount of half of this sum multiplied by the number of umbrellas issued. I regret that I have no precise information as to the total number but it is large.

Mr. A. Das : Is this economy due to any change in the annual rainfall which the Government have noticed ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : No, Sir.

Mr. A. Das : Having regard to the small saving and the great hardship which it entails on postmen, will Government consider the advisability of discontinuing this practice and continuing the old practice ?

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : As I have explained, no complaints have yet been received that the umbrellas supplied have not been lasting for two years.

EVIDENCE GIVEN BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA AND BY SIR MALCOLM HAILEY BEFORE THE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE.

300. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : (a) Are Government aware of the evidence given by the Right Honourable Sir Samuel Hoare, Secretary of State for India and by His Excellency Sir Malcolm Hailey before the Joint Parliamentary Committee ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to lay on the table of the House a copy of the same ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Blore : (a) Yes.

(b) I am not in a position at present to lay a copy of the evidence on the table. A copy will be placed in the Library when available.

PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF A PORTION OF THE WALL WHICH SEPARATES OLD DELHI FROM NEW DELHI.

301. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : (a) Is it a fact that some portion of the wall which separates Old Delhi from New Delhi is to be demolished ? If so, why ?

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(b) Do Government propose to repair the ancient wall instead of demolishing a portion thereof ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) During the recent rains a portion of the Delhi City Wall fell and resulted in the death of two persons and serious injury to a third. The whole wall was carefully examined and it was noticed that there were other portions which were in imminent danger of collapse. As heavy rain continued and repairs could not be effected quickly, the dangerous portions were pulled down.

(b) The matter will be considered in due course.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE JAMALPUR WORKSHOP, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

302. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Is it a fact that Indians and Europeans are not treated equally at Jamalpur Workshop, East Indian Railway ?

(b) Is it a fact that (i) Messrs. C. O. Tomkinson, E. R. Dale and S. P. D'Costa were working as Scheduling Supervisors at a grade of Rs. 550 ; and (ii) since an Indian, an old *ex-special* grade apprentice, was appointed for the same job, the grade has been reduced to Rs. 250 ?

(c) Is it a fact that European officers working as Scheduling Supervisors used to enjoy the privilege of coming to work at 8 A.M. but Indian officers are not given that privilege ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : With your permission, Sir, I propose to reply to questions Nos. 302 and 304 to 306 together. I have called for information and will lay a reply on the table in due course.

FACILITIES GIVEN TO MUSLIM EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE RAILWAYS TO PERFORM IDUL-ZUHA AND IDUL-FITR PRAYERS.

303. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Are Government aware that Id-ul-Zuha and Id-ul-Fitr prayers are most important prayers for Musalmans ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state whether facilities are given to Muslim employees of the State-managed Railways to give them sufficient time to perform the Id-ul-Zuha and Id-ul-Fitr prayers ?

Mr. P. B. Rau : (a) Yes.

(b) Government have received no complaints that the facilities given are inadequate.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF APPRENTICES NOMINATED TO THE WELDING DEPARTMENT, JAMALPUR RAILWAY WORKSHOP.

†304. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Is it a fact that in the Welding Department at Jamalpur Workshop apprentices are taken by nomination ?

(b) Will Government be pleased to state how many apprentices have been taken during the last five years and what is the communal composition of each year's nomination ?

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 302.

RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN THE JAMALPUR WORKSHOP, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†305. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : (a) Is it a fact that in the Jamalpur Workshop, East Indian Railway, Europeans are given preference over Indians ?

(b) Is it a fact that in the Blacksmith Shop non-Indians who have never received blacksmith training, are brought in and are made senior chargemen while Indians who have completed blacksmith apprenticeship are not made senior chargemen ?

OVERLOOKING OF CLAIMS OF TRAINED INDIANS IN THE JAMALPUR WORKSHOP, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

†306. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : (a) Is it a fact that claims of deserving trained Indians are overlooked at the Jamalpur Workshop, East Indian Railway ?

(b) Is it a fact that untrained men from other shops are now made senior chargemen ? If so, why ?

MANUFACTURE OF PLAYING CARDS IN INDIA.

307. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : (a) Are Government aware that playing cards are manufactured in India ?

(b) Are Government aware of the amount of Indian capital which has been invested in this industry ?

(c) Is it a fact that the duty on playing cards is 50 per cent. while the duty on card-boards imported for the manufacture of playing cards in India is 30 per cent. ?

(d) Do Government propose to examine the desirability of exempting from duty the card-board imported for the manufacture of playing cards ?

(e) Do Government propose to protect the playing card manufacturing industry ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The import duty on playing cards is :

Standard rate 50 per cent. *ad valorem*.

Preferential rate for the
United Kingdom .. 40 „ „

and that on card-boards is :

Standard rate 30 „ „

Preferential rate for the
United Kingdom .. 20 „ „

(d) Government recognise that it is in the interests of industrial development that the duties on the materials of industries should be as low as possible, and such duties are being reduced or removed as opportunity and financial considerations permit.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 302.

(e) Applications from certain playing card manufacturers for protection under the Safeguarding of Industries Act, 1933, are receiving consideration.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Are Government aware that the indigenous manufacturers of playing cards are put to great loss on account of intensive Japanese competition ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : I would draw my Honourable friend's attention to the answer which I just now gave to part (e) of the question. The answer is that their applications have been received and they are now being considered.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh : Thank you.

Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur : Is there any means available to Government to determine what the quantity is of imported card-board which is used for the manufacture of playing cards ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : I could not give my Honourable friend a reply straight off, but if he desires information on that point, I will attempt to get it for him.

Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur : Is there not any other action which the Government can take than a mere deduction in the duty on card-board ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhoré : I did not suggest that the Government were ready to take that action at all.

ABSENCE OF MUSLIM OFFICERS IN THE CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

308. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is not a single Mussalman in the Calcutta Port Trust who draws a salary of Rs. 500 or more or is on a scale of salary rising up to or above that amount ?

(b) Is it a fact that the total number of officers now in the Commissioners' service, excluding men on leave preparatory to retirement (the term officer includes all men coming under the Fundamental Leave Rules), who are on a scale of pay rising above Rs. 499, is made up as follows ?

Europeans	..	..	116	}	188	90.8 per cent.
<i>cum</i>						
Anglo-Indians	..		72			
Hindus	..	..	19	..		9.2 per cent.
Muslims	..	..	<i>Nil</i>			<i>Nil</i>

(c) Will Government be pleased to state the total number of officers now in the Commissioners' service, who are on a scale of pay rising above Rs. 350 according to the following schedule ?

	Number.	Percentage.
Europeans	}	
<i>cum</i>		..
Anglo-Indians
Hindus
Muslims
Others

(d) If the answer to (a) and (b) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state why, in spite of the fact that a resolution urging the Indianisation of the Port Trust services was adopted by the Council of State as far back as 1922, there is such poor representation of Indians in the Calcutta Port Trust in the senior grades which carry maximum salaries of Rs. 500 or more and why does not a single Mussalman hold any of the posts ?

(e) What are the high technical and academic qualifications which are deemed to be necessary for holding a post in the Calcutta Port Trust, which carries a maximum salary of Rs. 500 and above ?

(f) Is it not a fact that there exists a large number of posts in the Calcutta Port Trust which carry a maximum salary of Rs. 500 and above and for which technical qualifications are not necessary, only a liberal amount of general education being quite sufficient for holding such posts ?

(g) Are there no Hindu and Mussalman Indians with sufficient qualifications to hold posts in the Calcutta Port Trust, which carry a maximum salary of Rs. 500 and above, available ?

(h) Is it not a fact that the general educational qualifications of a large number of Europeans and Anglo-Indians who enjoy a preponderating share of the posts carrying maximum salaries of Rs. 500 and above are not usually above the Senior Cambridge or its equivalent ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore : With your permission, Sir, I propose to answer questions bearing Serial Nos. 308, 309, 310, 311, 312 and 313 together.

Information is being called for and a complete reply will be laid on the table when it is received.

AMOUNT SPENT ON THE SALARIES AND ALLOWANCES OF THE OFFICERS UNDER THE CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

†309.***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad :** Is it a fact that the percentages of the total amount spent on the salaries and allowances of the officers under the Calcutta Port Trust, which go to Europeans-cum-Anglo-Indians, Hindus, Mussalmans, and other Indians, are as follows ?

Europeans	}	..	..	49.56 per cent.
cum				
Anglo-Indians				
Hindus	..	..	..	46.28 per cent.
Muslims	..	..	..	3.58 per cent.
Others	..	..	..	.58 per cent.
				100.00 per cent.

†For answer to this question, see answer to question No. 308.

RECRUITMENT OF MUSLIMS IN THE CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

†310. *Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that all the Mussalman employees of the Calcutta Port Trust coming under the Fundamental Leave Rules are clerks or are holding posts of the clerical status ?

(b) How many Mussalman employees are there in the Port Trust, who are on a scale of salary :

- (i) rising above Rs. 350 but not exceeding Rs. 450 ;
- (ii) rising above Rs. 300 but not exceeding Rs. 350 ;
- (iii) rising above Rs. 250 but not exceeding Rs. 300 ;
- (iv) rising above Rs. 200 but not exceeding Rs. 250 ;
- (v) rising above Rs. 150 but not exceeding Rs. 200 ;
- (vi) rising above Rs. 100 but not exceeding Rs. 150 ;
- (vii) rising up to Rs. 100 ; and
- (viii) rising to amounts less than Rs. 100 ?

(c) Is it a fact that the Mussalman employees in the Port Trust are all engaged in out-door work ?

(d) In April, 1933, how many Mussalman clerks were there in each of the following offices under the control of the Port Commissioners :

- (i) Port Commissioners' Head Office, all Departments taken together,
- (ii) Jetty Superintendent's office,
- (iii) Dock Superintendents' office,
- (iv) Office of the Superintendent, Kantapukur,
- (v) Office of the Superintendent, Tea Warehouse,
- (vi) Office of the Deputy Dock Superintendent, Coal,
- (vii) Controller of Stores' Office,
- (viii) Office of the Executive Engineer, Calcutta Division,
- (ix) Office of the Executive Engineer, Kidderpore Docks,
- (x) Office of the Executive Engineer, King George's Docks,
- (xi) Chief Mechanical Engineer's office,
- (xii) Office of the Superintendent, Collections, and
- (xiii) Offices other than mentioned in (i) to (xii) ?

(e) Do the Commissioners as a rule always advertise in the Calcutta Gazette and the leading Calcutta papers about all vacancies, whether of the clerical or officer's rank, under their control whenever there is occasion for filling up the same ?

(f) If the answer to part (e) above be in the affirmative, do they mention in such advertisements, inviting applications, the minimum qualifications which the candidates must possess ?

(g) Do Government propose to appoint a committee consisting of Members of this House to examine the records of the Calcutta Port Trust and to report whether the rules and instructions of Government about the recruitment of employees have been fully observed by the authorities concerned ?

RETRENCHMENT OF STAFF IN THE CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

†311. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Calcutta Port authorities recently launched a scheme for retrenching their staff ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative, how many Europeans, Hindus, Mussalmans and others, coming under the Fundamental Leave Rules, have been retrenched ?

(c) Do Government propose to instruct the Calcutta Port Trust to keep in view the paucity of Muslims in the junior scale and the paucity of Hindus in the senior scale of service and total absence of Muslims in the senior scale ?

RETRENCHMENT OF STAFF IN THE CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

†312. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : (a) Is it a fact that some of the Calcutta Port Trust employees who had been retrenched according to the terms of the latest retrenchment scheme were afterwards recalled ?

(b) If the answer to part (a) be in the affirmative,

(i) how many were altogether recalled ;

(ii) of those recalled, how many were Mussalmans ?

VOLUNTARY RETIREMENT OF MUSLIM EMPLOYEES OF THE CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

†313. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : How many Mussalman employees in the Calcutta Port Trust retired voluntarily or proceeded on leave preparatory to retirement after the 1st April, 1933 ?

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON PENAL LAWS HELD AT PALERMO.

314. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : (a) Are Government aware that noted criminal lawyers and jurists from twenty nations met recently for the Third International Congress on Penal Laws in March, 1933, at Palermo ?

(b) Are Government aware of the existence of the International Association of Penal Laws of which 54 nations are members ?

(c) Will Government be pleased to state whether India is a member of the Association mentioned in part (b) or not ?

The Honourable Sir Harry Haig (a) Government received intimation that the Third International Congress of the Diritto Penale would meet in Palermo in April, 1933.

(b) and (c). Government are aware of the existence of the International Penal Law Association but have no information in regard to its organisation or membership.

DERAILMENT OF A PASSENGER TRAIN NEAR DHARAMPUR, KALKA SIMLA RAILWAY.

315. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : Will Government be pleased to state the reasons for the derailment of the engine and the three bogies of No. 65 Up Passenger at mile 19.4 between Sonwara and Dharampur on the Kalka Simla Section, North Western Railway on the 17th April, 1933, and the list of the casualties ?

Mr. P. R. Rau : I would invite a reference to the reply which I gave to Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh's question No. 25 on the 23rd August on this subject.

SUGAR AND INDUSTRIES CONFERENCES HELD AT SIMLA.

316. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : (a) Is it a fact that Sugar Manufacturing Industry Conference was held recently at Simla ?

(b) Is it a fact that the Industries Conference was held recently at Simla ?

(c) Is it a fact that protection has been given to the sugar industry ?

(d) Is it a fact that protection has been given to the Punjab wheat ?

(e) Will Government be pleased to state what help and assistance, if any, has been given by them to the paddy growing class of Eastern India ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : (a) to (c). Yes.

(d) The Wheat (Import Duty) Act provides for the levy of a customs duty on wheat imported into India.

(e) Since the Indian Empire as a whole is a large exporter of rice, the most important method of assistance is to devise means of increasing the efficiency of production. To this end the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has made grants aggregating 9.19 lakhs for research work on rice to the provinces of Madras, Bengal, United Provinces, Burma, Bihar and Orissa, Central Provinces and Assam. This is in addition to a grant of Rs. 2,03,279 for work in Burma and Bengal obtained from the Empire Marketing Board.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : Are Government aware that the amount spent for research work on rice is quite insufficient ?

Mr. G. S. Bajpai : I understand that the amount which the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has already granted is about as much as can usefully be spent on research.

SALE OF TREASURY BILLS.

317. ***Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad** : Will Government be pleased to state whether they were able to sell the treasury bills of the full notified amounts in the current financial year ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : I am not sure what my Honourable friend means by the " full noticed amounts " but I imagine that the information required by him will be found in the weekly reports published by the Controller of the Currency in the Press.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT.

AERIAL BOMBARDMENT OF KOTKAI IN THE TRANS-FRONTIER.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : I have received a notice from Shaikh Sadiq Hasan that he
12 Noon. proposes to ask for leave to move an adjournment of the business of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance as follows : Aerial bombardment of Kotkai in the Trans-Frontier. Before I inquire whether any Honourable Member has any objection to the making of this motion, I would like to know from the Honourable the Mover as to when this aerial bombardment of Kotkai took place ?

Shaikh Sadiq Hasan (East Central Punjab : Muhammadan) : Sometime before the Assembly met, about two weeks ago.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : If, according to the Honourable Member's own information, this incident took place at least about two weeks back, may I ask him what grounds he has to justify that this motion does not come within the mischief of rule 12, sub-rule (2) which says that the motion must be restricted to a specific matter of recent occurrence.

Shaikh Sadiq Hasan : No doubt the bombing took place sometime before the Assembly met, but I put myself in communication with the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy and it was proposed that a deputation should wait upon His Excellency. As soon as we came over here, we had a conference with the Army and the Foreign Secretaries and discussed matter with them. Later on, at a meeting of the members of the Muslim Group, it was decided to send a deputation. I received a reply from the Private Secretary stating that His Excellency proposes to address the Members of both Houses on the 30th August and that we should wait until after His Excellency has made his pronouncement. Therefore, we had to wait, because it would have been the height of discourtesy at that time to move an adjournment motion and now, after His Excellency has addressed both Houses, I do think that the necessity arises for making this adjournment motion.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Does the Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore wish to say anything ?

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Leader of the House) : I take objection on the ground that this is not a matter of urgency falling within the meaning of the term in rule 12 of the Legislative Rules. The bombing at Kotkai took place on August, 1st, 3rd and 4th. Since then no bombing has taken place and my objection is that if it is contended that this is a matter of urgency, the Honourable the Mover should have made his motion at the very earliest opportunity after the House assembled. Failure to do so is, I submit, the most conclusive proof

[Sir Joseph Bhore.]

against the validity of any contention of urgency. I am afraid I personally could not agree to ask the Chair to accept the excuse put forward by my Honourable friend for not having followed what I consider to be the proper procedure in this matter and moved his motion at the earliest possible opportunity.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division : Non-Muhammadan) : I am surprised to find that the grand courtesy which was shewn by this side of the House to the August personage of the Viceroy in this matter as was brought out in the arguments of my friend, Shaikh Sadiq Hasan, has not been appreciated by the Honourable the Leader of the House. If the Leader of the House had listened carefully to the statement made by my friend, Shaikh Sadiq Hasan, he would have found that the opposition tried to meet the Government in the belief that His Excellency the Governor General would make a satisfactory statement on the 30th on the floor of this House. That statement has not satisfied this side of the House. My friend wants to wriggle out of the situation by arguing that the urgency is past. I do not feel and I do not think any Member on this side of the House feels that the urgency is past. The Honourable the Leader of the House recognises that the situation created is one of great public importance to all sections of Indians and I do hope, Sir, you will overrule the plea that the Leader of the House has advanced and allow the motion for adjournment.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi (Tirhut Division : Muhammadan) : The facts complained of took place in a remote corner of India, which is the preserve of the Military Department. We do not know much about it beyond what appeared in the papers. We found that people were very much agitated, so much so that in Madras and in distant parts of the country resolutions were brought forward and protest meetings were held. When I came here, on the very first day I tabled a short notice question and at once went to see the Foreign Secretary on this question. I had a long talk with him. We were asked not to be led away by the facts which appeared in the press. I did not think it wise to rush with a strong protest before I was in possession of the real facts of the situation. We tried to meet other officials who could give us correct information on the subject and it is within the knowledge of responsible officials here that we were very anxious to make the strongest protest that we could in this matter, but we were asked to wait and take a course which might produce the desired result. We went on canvassing opinion as to the most effective way of protesting against the incidents. As you have just heard, Shaikh Sadiq Hasan has been in communication with the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy and we were asked to wait for the announcement which His Excellency was making in this House on the 30th.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : What was the result of the short notice question which the Honourable Member gave ?

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : We pressed the short notice question on the 1st and the 2nd day, but the Army Secretary told us not to insist on a reply and that it would be much better to approach the very head of the Government and get the information from him. He said that the answer involved many departments of the Government and he was

not sure how far the reply from the different Departments would satisfy the public. Now, we have heard what His Excellency had to say and, having considered the matter in our party meetings, we came to the conclusion that the strongest protest could be made by an adjournment of the House. I should confess that I was simple enough to take the words of the officials that we should not rush with our strong protests at that stage. We should really have a deputation arranged to the Viceroy. Now, at the last stage the Private Secretary to the Viceroy said that the Viceroy was going to make an announcement on the 30th August and advised us to wait and hear his speech and see whether we were satisfied or not. The moment the speech was read yesterday, we felt that it was absolutely unsatisfactory.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Why did the Honourable Member withdraw his short notice question ?

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : I did not withdraw it. I was informed that as there was the talk of the deputation waiting on the Viceroy, the short notice question could be answered in the ordinary way.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : In other words, the Army Secretary refused to take the short notice question and the Honourable Member concurred in that view.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : I did not concur, but simply waited to hear the Viceroy's speech whether it would satisfy us. Of course, we did not rush to the very strong mode of protest which is available to the Members of the House. Now, we are told by the Leader of the House that we are late. I do not know if it is right to manœuvre the Honourable Members of this House in a manner that they are kept in suspense as to what to do and what not to do and come at a late stage and say that you have been late. This is really unfair. It is not that we were sleeping over the matter ; we were trying to canvass the Members and were trying to find out the real facts of the matter and then take the right course. It is not because we are on this side of the House, and that therefore we should make all sorts of fantastic statements against the Government. That is not the policy which I follow. Our only mistake has been that we confided in the words of so many officials and we were told that we would have something satisfactory. I, therefore, feel very strongly that this is not a case in which the Leader of the House should take an objection of the kind he has taken. I admit that if we were sleeping over the matter, the objection would have been perfectly justified, but we did nothing of the sort. We were only tossed about from here to there and now we are told that we are late. That is not the way to treat the Honourable Members of this House on a question of such vital importance to the country.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chandhury (Bengal : Landholders) : Sir, it has been apparent from the speeches just made that the negotiations were going on and that they expected some sort of an announcement from His Excellency the Viceroy. The Members on this side of the House were not satisfied with the announcement made by the Viceroy. Therefore, so far as this adjournment motion is concerned, I maintain that the matter is urgent, important and also definite and I hope that the Chair will rule out of order the objection that has been taken by the Leader of the House.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa : Muhammadan) : Sir, in this connection I wish to bring two more facts to the notice of the House which were not mentioned by my Honourable friends. The very day that we reached here, some of us wanted to give notice of a motion for adjournment, but, before our arrival, a letter was received from the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy saying that His Excellency was ready to receive the deputation. Even at the time when our short notice question was refused, we wanted to give notice for the adjournment of the House, but some of the Honourable Members thought that it was not advisable to send a deputation to the Viceroy and, at the same time, to give notice for the adjournment motion. I suggest that if there is any difficulty on the part of the Government in accepting this motion for adjournment, then I request them to allot a day to discuss the whole question, because this is a very important matter.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : I think Honourable Members have said enough to enable the Chair to appreciate the exact position in which this matter stands. The rule governing motions for adjournment of the business, especially in relation to urgency, have been interpreted on more than one occasion by my predecessors in the past. On the 14th September, 1922, President Whyte laid down this principle :

“ I do not wish to give a hard and fast interpretation of the word ‘ recent ’ in the rule, but the intention of the rule is that as soon as a matter of this kind is brought to the notice of the Honourable Member and he wishes discussion thereon, he should at the first available opportunity bring it before the Assembly.”

That was the principle laid down by President Whyte. Later on, the principle was applied in another case by President Patel on the 7th September, 1927. He said :

“ I am clearly of the opinion that the matter is of great public importance. But I am not convinced that the matter is urgent. I should have certainly admitted this notice of motion for adjournment if it had come to me on the 18th August. The decision proposed to be questioned was arrived at on the 15th August. It was published in the newspapers on the 16th or 17th August, as Sir George Rainy has said, and there is absolutely no reason why the Honourable Member should not have given a notice of motion for adjournment on the 18th.”

In these circumstances, President Patel overruled the motion, because it was moved on the 7th September while, in his opinion, it ought to have been moved on the 18th of August. Now, let us apply these principles to the present case. According to the statement made by the Leader of the House, the bombing took place on the 1st, 3rd and 4th August and the Legislative Assembly met for the first time after that on the 22nd August. Now, if it is the contention of the Honourable the Mover that this bombing, in spite of its taking place on the 1st, 3rd or 4th August, was actually brought to his notice only yesterday or the day before yesterday, then the Chair would certainly allow the motion to be in order, because what the Chair has to consider is not the date on which the incident took place, but the date on which it was brought to the notice of an Honourable Member of this House. But I understand it is not the contention of the Honourable the Mover that this matter was not brought to his notice before the 22nd August. What he ought to have done was to have moved a motion for adjournment on the 22nd August when the Assembly met for the first time

after the incident was brought to the notice of Honourable Members. He did not move it and the excuse that the Honourable Member says in extenuation of the fact that he did not move it on the 22nd August and in justification of asking the Chair to allow the motion today is that he was carrying on correspondence with the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Viceroy and that certain other Honourable Members were carrying on correspondence or conversation with the Army Secretary. I must make it perfectly clear that, so far as this House is concerned, especially in the matter of a motion for adjournment, neither the Chair nor the House will take notice of any private correspondence that takes place between one Honourable Member and any Member of Government. If once we start taking notice of that fact, we do not know where we can stop. The procedure that the Honourable Member must have followed is this : he should have sought to move the adjournment motion on the 22nd August. If he had not been in full possession of the facts of the case, what he ought to have done was to have given a short notice question on the 22nd August. In this case the Honourable Member says that a short notice question was actually given to the Army Secretary. The very fact that the Army Secretary refused to take notice of the question must have made the Honourable Member to move the motion for adjournment immediately on the next day. If the Honourable Member wanted to show courtesy, as one Honourable Member said, to the Army Secretary or to any other Member of Government, well, the Honourable Member must take the consequence, so far as this Assembly is concerned. So far as this House is concerned, this motion, not having been moved on the 22nd August before which date the incident was brought to the notice of the Honourable Member, the Chair has no other course but to rule it out of order.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Major W. K. Fraser-Tytler (Foreign Secretary) : Sir, I lay on the table the information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 1080 to 1082, asked by Dr. Ziauddin Ahmad on behalf of Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad at the meeting of the Legislative Assembly on the 1st April, 1933.

POSSESSION OF A DIPLOMA OR CERTIFICATE IN THE HINDI LANGUAGE BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, DELHI.

*1080. No.

QUALIFICATIONS POSSESSED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, DELHI, IN THE GUJRATI AND MARATHI LANGUAGES.

*1081. The Superintendent of Education does not claim any knowledge of Marathi or Gujrati. The inspection of Primary Schools is not a part of the ordinary duties of the Superintendent of Education and is carried out by him purely as a measure of economy. The appointment of separate Inspectors possessing, in addition to other necessary qualifications, diplomas in these languages is impracticable on grounds of economy.

EXPENDITURE ON INSPECTORATE IN THE ADMINISTERED AREAS IN CENTRAL INDIA.

*1082. Details of the total expenditure on inspectorate in the Central India Agency in the year preceding the appointment of the present Superintendent of Education (1930-31) :-

	Rs.
1. Pay of the Inspector	2,452
2. Pay of the Inspector's office clerk	300
3. Pay of the Inspector's office peon	1,066
4. T. A. of the Inspector and his peon	
5. Inspector's office contingencies	
6. Miscellaneous expenditure	260
	<hr/> 4,078

Details of the total expenditure on inspectorate in the Central India Agency in the year 1932 (after the appointment of the Superintendent of Education) :-

	Rs.	A.	P.
7. Pay of the Superintendent of Education (C. I. Share) ..	2,017	8	0
8. (i) Pay of Stenographer (C. I. Share)	254	6	0
(ii) Special pay of Stenographer	180	0	0
9. Pay of Superintendent of Education's peons (C. I. Share) ..	66	0	0
10. Pay of S. E.'s office clerk	480	0	0
11. T. A. of Superintendent of Education and his attached Staff (C. I. Share)	467	7	0
12. S. E.'s office contingencies	472	5	0
13. Miscellaneous expenditure			Nd.
	<hr/> 3,937	10	0

Mr. G. S. Bajpai (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands) : Sir, I lay on the table—

- (i) the information promised in reply to starred question No. 678 asked by Mr. Lalchand Navalrai on the 7th March, 1933 ;
- (ii) the information promised in reply to starred question No. 882 asked by Khan Sahib Shaikh Fazal Haq Piracha on the 23rd March, 1933 ; and
- (iii) the information promised in reply to unstarred question No. 199 asked by Lieutenant Nawab Muhammad Ibrahim Ali Khan on the 12th April, 1933.

DIFFICULTIES EXPERIENCED BY INDIAN STUDENTS IN THE UNIVERSITIES IN GREAT BRITAIN.

*678. The High Commissioner for India has reported that it is true that Indian medical students sometimes find it difficult to secure admission to a medical school in London, where the pressure on the available accommodation is especially acute owing to a large number of applicants from England and other countries. The difficulty is increased by the fact that while home students as a rule desire to pursue the full course leading to the degrees in Medicine and Surgery of the University of London, the majority of the Indian students seek admission for short courses to prepare themselves for the final examinations of one or other of the external bodies which grant registrable qualifications or diplomas. The constituent medical schools of the University of London naturally give preference, in the first instance, to students, whether from home or abroad, who propose to pursue the full medical degree course of five or six years. It may, however, be mentioned that in the session beginning October, 1932, there were no less than 155 Indian students working in the London medical schools. Properly qualified Indian students who cannot secure admission to a medical school in London usually find no difficulty in securing admission to the Medical Faculty of one or other of the provincial and Scottish Universities, where excellent clinical

facilities are available, and where suitable courses recognised by the professional examining bodies are provided. Facilities for post-graduate students can also be obtained usually in the special hospitals, e.g., heart, nervous diseases, skin, etc., and in the special post-graduate hospitals (North-East London Post-graduate College, and the West London Hospital Post-graduate College). The question of admission of medical students is one solely within the competence of the institutions concerned, and forms no part of the functions of the General Medical Council.

CONSTRUCTION OF A ROAD FROM DELHI TO VILLAGE BASTI CHIRAGH.

*882. (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. Government has no information about the number of the Saint's followers.

(c) Yes.

(d) and (e). Yes, but Government are not aware that any special inconvenience is caused to the public for want of a road. The tomb is about 11 miles from Delhi and is connected with the Delhi-Mehrauli metalled road by a kachcha path about two miles in length.

(f) The existing path passes through several villages and is private land. Owing to financial stringency it is not possible to take up the question of providing a road at present.

(g) and (h). The tomb is a privately owned monument. Government are prepared to protect it provided the owners execute an agreement under Section 5 of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act, 1904 (VII of 1904).

(i) The descendants of one of the sisters of Hazrat Khwaja Nasiruddin Mohammed Chiragh Delhvi are in charge of the tomb, and a Committee consisting of Pirs Bahimuddin Ilauddin and Ahmad Baksh, and a Khadim Rahmatulla, arrange for its upkeep. The cost is met from offerings received.

(j) Government has no information.

(k) Does not arise.

LOCATION OF THE EXISTING INFECTIOUS DISEASES ISOLATION HOSPITAL, DELHI.

199. (a) This Hospital was located on the present site before the creation of New Delhi.

(b) Government are aware that the present position of the Hospital is not satisfactory.

(c) The present surroundings of the Hospital are admittedly not satisfactory.

(d) Some of the rooms in the Hospital are ill-ventilated, and the building is not satisfactory in regard to the accommodation which it offers and its plan of construction.

(e) Yes.

(f) It is realised that the lighting arrangements in the Hospital are not satisfactory. As it is proposed to erect a new Hospital on another site, the Municipal Committee are not prepared to spend money on the improvement of the lighting of the existing building.

(g) It is true that the Hospital is not used by well-to-do persons.

(h) Yes.

(i) Yes. There was, however, no epidemic prevalent at the time that this tournament was held.

(j) Yes.

(k) The assertion that the Hospital spreads infectious diseases in Delhi and New Delhi is not warranted by facts. Precautions are taken as far as possible to ensure that small-pox cases are prevented from mixing with the public.

(l) and (m). Government are aware of the necessity for improvement. A proposal to build a new Infectious Diseases Hospital at a more suitable site is at present under consideration of the Delhi and New Delhi Municipal Committees. About four years ago plans and estimates for a new Hospital were prepared but on account of financial stringency the proposal was dropped by the Delhi Municipal Committee.

Mr. P. R. Rau (Financial Commissioner, Railways) : Sir, I lay on table :

- (i) the information promised in reply to parts (c), (d) and (e) of starred question No. 15 asked by Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad on the 1st February, 1933 ;
- (ii) the information promised in reply to part (b) of starred question No. 405, asked by Mr. Goswami M. R. Puri on the 21st February, 1933 ;
- (iii) the information promised in reply to starred question No. 657 asked by Bhai Parma Nand on the 6th March, 1933 ;
- (iv) the information promised in reply to starred question No. 826 asked by Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon on the 21st March, 1933 ;
- (v) the information promised in reply to starred questions Nos. 840 to 844 asked by Pandit Satyendra Nath Sen on the 21st March, 1933 ; and
- (vi) the information promised in reply to part (c) of starred question No. 1219 asked by Mr. B. N. Misra on the 12th April, 1933.

RESERVATION OF POSTS OF ASSISTANT ACCOUNTS OFFICERS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY FOR ACCOUNTANTS AND INSPECTORS OF STATION ACCOUNTS.

*15. (c) The number of appointments of Assistant Accounts Officers on each State-managed Railway and the number reserved out of these for the Audit staff are set out below :

	Total sanctioned number of Assistant Accounts Officers.	Reserved for Audit Department.
North Western	8	6
Eastern Bengal	2	2
East Indian	8	3
Great Indian Peninsula	3	1
Burma	2	1
Railway Clearing Accounts Office	3	1
	26	14

It will be seen that the proportion of reserved posts varies from Railway to Railway. The reservation has been made in order to protect the interests of the staff who worked in the old combined Audit and Accounts offices; and the proportion of reserved posts is consequently higher in the old State-managed Railways, viz., North Western, Eastern Bengal and the Oudh and Rohilkhand portions of the East Indian Railway than in the old Company Railways which became State-managed recently, viz., Great Indian Peninsula, East Indian proper and Burma Railways.

As stated in the reply to part (a), the non-reserved posts are not reserved for Inspectors of Station Accounts alone but open to all.

I would mention, however, that it has been decided to abolish the system of reservations and to transfer permanently to the Accounts Department a certain number of Assistant Audit Officers and Accountants from the Audit Department.

(d) After consulting the Auditor General, the Railway Board have satisfied themselves that no undertaking or guarantee given to Inspectors of Station Accounts in the past has been broken and that, consequently, there is no grievance which requires to be remedied.

(c) Government are not prepared to reserve a specific number of posts for Inspectors of Station Accounts as suggested. Government are of opinion that promotion to the higher ranks in the Railway Accounts Department should be open to all who possess the requisite qualifications.

COMMUNAL COMPOSITION OF CERTAIN CADRES ON THE GREAT INDIAN PENINSULA RAILWAY.

*405. (b) So far as Station Masters are concerned the Agent, Great Indian Peninsula Railway, reports that during the period of retrenchment it was found necessary to reduce the grades of pay of certain stations on the line. Of the stations enumerated in the question, nine Assistant Station Masters' posts of Rs. 300—345 grade, at Lonavla, Poona and Kalyan, were converted into Rs. 200 grade. The staff in the grade of Rs. 300—345 were absorbed in vacancies in their own grades at other stations and their places filled by Assistant Station Masters on the reduced rates of pay. Of these latter, four are Hindus, three Mohammadans, one Sikh and one Goanese. No replacement was effected at the other stations mentioned in the question.

As regards Guards, it has been intimated by the Agent that retrenchment was carried out on the basis of their length of service, irrespective of nationality and that no Anglo-Indian Guards were replaced by Goanese or Parsees.

RETRENCHMENT IN THE CHIEF ACCOUNTS OFFICE OF THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

*657. (a) and (b). The orders referred to were issued with reference to the block retrenchment then in contemplation, but the restriction imposed by these orders requiring the maintenance of proportions of the various communities at approximately the same level as before the retrenchment had to be extended in practice to all discharges, whether arising from block retrenchment or not, which synchronised with or closely followed block retrenchment, since it was not practicable in large establishments to distinguish between the two kinds of discharges.

(c) No.

(d) Government do not consider any further action necessary.

CONFIRMATION OF CERTAIN CLERKS ON THE NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.

*826. (a) The orders referred to apply to persons not in Government service on the 15th July, 1931.

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(b) A copy of these orders was sent by the Agent, North Western Railway, to all the subordinate offices under him for their guidance.

(c) Certain clerks who were in service prior to and on 15th June, 1931, were confirmed in the office of the District Controller of Stores, Moghalpura. As the action taken was not in conflict with the orders referred to in (a) above, the latter part of the question does not arise.

(d) A selection Board consisting of Deputy Controller of Stores, Deputy Chief Engineer and a District Controller of Stores was convened to select the candidates who had worked as clerks in the Stores Department with a view to confirming the most suitable among them. The Board prescribed a test in dictation for the purpose of the selection.

(e) No. Among the six candidates selected, three were Muslims.

(f) No third division Matric Hindu was selected for confirmation. The latter part of the question does not arise.

(g) There were 11 substitute clerks (of whom only one was a Muslim) working under the District Controller of Stores, Moghalpura, discharged from the service whose names were not communicated at the time of discharge to the Central Labour Exchange for re-employment in future vacancies because their employment was merely temporary. I am, however, informed by the Agent that on reconsideration he has decided to notify the names of all these men to the Labour Exchange for re-employment provided they are otherwise eligible.

MECHANICAL *ex*-APPRENTICES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY WORKSHOP,
LILLOOAH.

*840. At present there are no vacancies in the Mechanical or Stores Departments. It is impossible to foresee the exact number of vacancies if any, that are likely to arise on divisions or to state how the position will change during the year.

MECHANICAL *ex*-APPRENTICES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY WORKSHOP,
LILLOOAH.

*841. (a) No arrangements have been made to provide apprentices who are completing their apprenticeship this year.

(b) Does not arise.

MECHANICAL *ex*-APPRENTICES OF THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY WORKSHOP,
LILLOOAH.

*842. Two statements giving the required information are laid on the table.

STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE.

Names.	Date of admission.	Shop.	Years.	Months.	Days.	Technical School Results. Division passed.	Remarks.
G. B. Allnutt ..	2-2-1928	Train Lighting .. Production Section .. Drawing Office ..	3 1	8 .. 5 .. 0	2 .. 26 .. 29	1st	
D. G. Hogan ..	2-2-1928	Millwright .. Machine and Fitting .. Millwright .. Production Section .. Millwright .. Drawing Office ..	0 .. 1 .. 0 .. 0 .. 0 .. 0	11 .. 8 .. 11 .. 6 .. 6 .. 4	18 .. 23 .. 19 .. 20 .. 17 .. 22	1st	
W. H. Collins ..	2-2-1928	Train Lighting .. Power House ..	0 .. 4	11 .. 3	1 .. 8	1st	
H. B. Esterjee ..	2-2-1928	Machine and Fitting .. Millwright .. Production Section .. Millwright .. Drawing Office ..	3 .. 0 .. 0 .. 0 .. 0	3 .. 4 .. 6 .. 6 .. 7	3 .. 28 .. 26 .. 10 .. 17	2nd	
L. M. Mistry ..	2-2-1928	Carriage Building .. Saw Mill and Saw .. Doctoring ..	1 4	0 4	16 23	1st	

List of Apprentices who will complete their indentures in 1933—contd.

Names.	Date of admission.	Particulars of Training.				Technical School Results. Division passed.	Remarks.
		Shop.	Years.	Months.	Days.		
J. Banerjee	2-2-1928	Saw Mill	1	0	8	1st	
		Machine and Fitting	2	2	8		
		Millwright	1	0	4		
		Production Section	0	6	19		
		Train Lighting	0	3	13		
R. A. Bowen	2-2-1928	Drawing Office	0	5	25		
		Carriage Building	0	11	12	2nd	
		Carriage Repair	0	9	16		
		Machine and Fitting	1	11	29		
		Millwright	0	3	23		
P. B. Gupta	2-2-1928	Production Section	0	1	28		
		Tool Room	0	2	9		
		Millwright	0	3	23		
		Millwright	3	8	3		Absent at the examination through illness.
		Production Section	0	6	20		
Biswas Das	16-7-1928	Millwright	1	5	7		
		Carriage Building	1	8	8	1st	
		Saw Mill	0	6	24		
		Train Lighting	1	6	4		
		Production Section	0	6	19		
		Millwright	1	0	27		

STOPPAGE OF RECRUITMENT OF APPRENTICE TRAIN EXAMINERS FOR THE OPERATING DEPARTMENT, EAST INDIAN RAILWAY.

*843. Recruitment has been suspended for this year.

APPOINTMENT OF TRAINED *ex*-APPRENTICES IN THE EAST INDIAN RAILWAY WORKSHOPS, LILLOOAH.

*844. (a) No.

(b) Yes. This is a fact. No suitable apprentices or *ex*-apprentices were available when the mechanic in question was transferred to the Saw Mill.

(c) The men concerned were not trained for a few months only; one of them joined the service in 1924 and being a fully trained Millwright was posted to H (Millwright) shop in 1925. The other served his apprenticeship for five years before being appointed as a mechanic in the A (Forge and Smithy) Shop.

(d) It is not proposed to replace the mechanics in question, so long as their work is satisfactory.

UNIONS RECOGNISED BY THE PRINCIPAL RAILWAY ADMINISTRATIONS.

*1219. The following list shows the Unions recognised by the principal railway administrations as at the end of April, 1933 :

Railways.	Names of Unions recognised.
Bombay, Baroda and Central India ..	B. B. & C. I. Railway Employees' Union, Parel. B. B. & C. I. Railway Employees' Association, Ahmedabad.
East Indian ..	National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma. E. I. Railwaymen's Union, Lucknow.
Bengal Nagpur ..	B. N. Railway Indian Labour Union, Khargpur. B. N. Railway Employees' Union Gardenreach, Kidderpore.
Bengal and North Western Railway ..	Anglo-Indian and European Labour Union, Calcutta. B. & N. W. Railwaymen's Association.
Great Indian Peninsula ..	National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma. All-India and Burma Covenanted Non-gazetted Railway Services Association. G. I. P. Railway Administrative and Executive Offices Staff Union.
South Indian ..	South Indian Railway Employees' Association.
Eastern Bengal ..	Eastern Bengal Railway Indian Employees' Association, Calcutta. Kanchrapara Railway Workmen's Union, Kanchrapara. All-India and Burma Covenanted Non-gazetted Railway Service Association (Eastern Bengal Railway Branch, Kanchrapara). National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma.
North Western ..	North Western Railway Union.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : In continuation of what I said on the adjournment motion just now, I would like to give a suggestion for the guidance of Honourable Members so that they may not be faced with similar difficulty in future. In a similar case what I would advise Honourable Members to do is this. If Honourable Members are not in full possession of the facts with regard to a particular case, and if no short notice is taken of their questions, what they should do is actually to ask for the leave of the House to move the adjournment motion and then ask the leave of the Chair for permission to waive objection on the question of urgency until the full facts are available to Honourable Members. If that course is adopted, and if the Chair is satisfied that it is a proper case, necessary permission could be given to move the motion on a later day. (Applause.)

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham (Army Secretary) : May I make a small explanation on this subject ? I received these two short notice questions and I was prepared to answer them. I was fully prepared to answer them. But I thought it would be advisable first of all to consult the various parties in the House as to whether they would prefer an alternative procedure, because I understood that His Excellency the Viceroy was prepared to receive a deputation from the whole House on the subject. It was after discussion with the parties in the House on these lines that I understood from the parties that they would prefer not to take a deputation to see His Excellency the Viceroy, but to have the matter ventilated on the floor of the House in the ordinary way. During the course of those discussions, no suggestion was ever made to me or to the Foreign Secretary that there was any desire to move an adjournment of the House on this matter, and I understood that the House would prefer to get information, as I say, in the ordinary way from the questions that were being asked. I particularly asked both Honourable Members who had given me short notice questions whether they would object to my refusing to accept short notice and I understood from both of them that they were content with the position as it rested after the conversation with the parties. It was on that understanding that I refused to accept short notice, because I thought the House would prefer to hear what we had to say on this subject in the ordinary way in answer to questions which had already been put down on the question paper.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : I think my Honourable friend has forgotten what I said downstairs that it was better for Government to reply to the short notice questions.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : I would now ask the Government to reply to my question tomorrow.

Mr. S. O. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : He has refused.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : I will now ask the Army Secretary through the Chair to reply to my question

Mr. G. R. F. Tottenham : I am prepared to answer all the questions on the subject even at the present moment.

Mr. President (The Honorable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Honourable Member must give short notice of the question.

Maulvi Muhammad Shafee Daoodi : All right.

RESOLUTION RE RELEASE OF MR. GANDHI, MUFTI KIFAET-ULLAH AND OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad (Patna and Chota Nagpur cum Orissa : Muhammadan) : With regard to the Resolution that stands in my name, I wish to say a few words. I do not want to waste the time of the House in discussing this Resolution in view of the fact that Mahatma Gandhi and Mufti Kifaet-Ullah have already been released by Government. Though I strongly feel that all the political prisoners should have been released, but in view of the release of the two gentlemen specifically mentioned in the beginning of the Resolution, I beg leave of the House to withdraw it.*

The resolution was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

RESOLUTION RE RAISING OF DUTY ON FOREIGN COTTON IMPORTS.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon (Sind : Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I move :

"That in view of recent enhancement in duty on Japanese cloth, resulting in immediate boycott of Indian cotton by Japanese, this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council either to raise duty on all foreign cotton imports in India so as to extend better protection to cotton growers in India and give rise to consumption of Indian cotton or to introduce without delay a legislation prohibiting imports of foreign cotton into India altogether."

As every body knows, since the enhancement of the duty on Japanese cotton goods, the Japanese decided to boycott Indian cotton. I do not know what effect that boycott has on Indian cotton. But the fact remains that Japan wants to retaliate against India on account of the enhancement of duty on their goods by boycotting Indian cotton. Protection was given by Government to the Indian manufacturer and, on account of that, India is consuming large quantities of Indian cloth, but, at the same time, I find that the Indian manufacturers are importing foreign cotton from abroad, from America, Japan and many other places. And, on account of that, they are consuming foreign cotton instead of Indian cotton. I have collected a few figures from which I find that within the last three years we have imported into India foreign cotton very enormously. In 1930-31, we imported 58,000 tons of foreign cotton and from the 2nd September, 1931, Government have put a duty on foreign cotton of six pies per pound, because they want more revenue. But in spite of that duty, also in 1931-32 the cotton imported into India was 79,000 tons and, in 1932-33, it was 84,000 tons. So you find, Sir, that every year the quantity of cotton imported into India is increasing whereas, on account of India's consuming more Indian mill cloth, our export is diminishing. I have collected figures for three years from

* "This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to release Mr. Gandhi, Mufti Kifaet-Ullah and other political prisoners."

which I find that in 1929-30 we exported 7,26,000 tons of cotton, and in 1930-31, 7,01,000 tons, and in 1931-32, 4,23,000 tons, i.e., about 40 per cent. less in 1931-32. It might be said that this foreign cotton, which the manufacturers are importing, is long staple cotton which cannot be produced in India. But I do not agree with that, because long staple cotton, according to my information, is produced in India, specially in the Punjab and Sind and they are producing that cotton since very long. And my information is that they get very little support from the manufacturers or mill-owners in India, and at the same time, on account of this organisation of their selling agencies, that cotton is not properly introduced in the market. I am told that the Punjab has got a long staple cotton known as F. 4 and that is produced since long, and in Sind also Egyptian and American cotton was produced for a very long time, but, due to want of marketing facilities or support from the purchasers, its quality and quantity could not be improved. Since the duty of six pies was put on imported cotton, I find that within the last four years the F. 4 cotton of the Punjab has found a market mostly in Karachi and there was difference between *desi* cotton and F. 4 cotton of only Rs. 2 or Rs. 2-4-0 per maund, and on account of this new duty today we find from 2 to 5 rupees difference between *desi* cotton and F. 4 cotton in the market. So it seems to me that if more duty is put on foreign cotton, the mill-owner in India will probably purchase more F. 4 cotton than he does at present. I find that for a very long time the Government's policy has been to neglect the agriculturists, not only in this matter of cotton, but also in enhancing railway freights. Since 1930, the freight of cotton from the Punjab to Karachi was nearly doubled from Rs. 2 to Rs. 4-8-0 per maund,—if not that, at least 75 per cent. more, on cotton and wheat from the Punjab to Karachi. I know that there is heavy expenditure on railways. My Honourable friend, Mr. B. Das, pleads for Indianisation and my Honourable friend, Mr. Joshi, wants something to be done for labour. On account of these things, the expenditure on the railways increases and this expenditure is put on the shoulders of the cultivators and they enhance the freight of cotton and wheat. Sir, I want to give you one example about wheat. Two years ago, Government put an import duty on wheat. In 1930, I remember the rate of wheat in the Punjab market was only 14 annas to Rs. 1-4-0 per maund and, after that duty, I find for the last 1½ years from the 1932 crop that the present rate is Rs. 2-8-0 or Rs. 3-0-0 a maund. And, if that duty is not enhanced on wheat, I am sure that up till now the wheat market cannot grow more than Re. 1 or Rs. 1-4-0. So the cultivators and the zamindars may be unable to pay any sort of revenue to the Punjab Government if the price of wheat does not go up. Today the price of cotton, I think, is less than in 1918-14, whereas the railway freight has nearly doubled, and, besides that, a new difficulty arises which is that the foreign countries are purchasing less and less cotton from India. Sir, if things go on like this and no sort of help is given by Government, the time is not distant when these cultivators and zamindars will not only refuse but will be unable to pay any revenues to Government and the Government will come to pieces. Sir, my Resolution may be appreciated by the Treasury Benches, because I suggest more duty which will bring them more revenue, but I am appealing and suggesting to them that they may not only get more revenue, but that that income should be spent on

[Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon.]

improving the quality and quantity of the cotton in the Punjab, Sind and other places. With these words, I commend my Resolution to the acceptance of the House.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Resolution moved :

“ That in view of recent enhancement in duty on Japanese cloth, resulting in immediate boycott of Indian cotton by Japanese, this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council either to raise duty on all foreign cotton imports in India so as to extend better protection to cotton growers in India and give rise to consumption of Indian cotton or to introduce without delay a legislation prohibiting imports of foreign cotton into India altogether.”

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer (Kohilkund and Kumaon Divisions : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : Sir, I cordially associate myself with the spirit of the observations that Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon made in moving this Resolution which is of momentous importance for the future development of our agricultural resources and for preparing the industrial magnates to work in co-ordination with agricultural interests. When we denounced the most-favoured treatment given to Japan, we read in the newspapers that Japan was preparing to embark on a course of retaliation and Japan, who is certainly one of our principal purchasers so far as indigenous cotton is concerned, was prepared to look elsewhere for her purchases. So far as our industries are concerned, we have definitely made up our mind to give our industries adequate support against foreign dumping, and, on that point, there has not been any difference on this side of the House, or between this side of the House and the other side. Now, comes directly from that policy another problem which faces the cotton growers in India. They are losing or they are threatened with the loss of one of their principal customers. Surely, we are not going to take things lying down, if Japan were to tell us “ either take this course of our not purchasing your cotton, or your abandoning the course that you have now embarked upon ”. Our position, especially when Japanese representatives are coming to this country, is this : we refuse to be threatened, and, at the same time, we want our agriculturists should be protected at least to the same extent as the Government have been protecting our industrialists. The agriculturists of this country, especially when we know that India's essential wealth consists of agricultural products, have been receiving Cinderella treatment from the Government. For instance, notwithstanding the fact that Sir Joseph Bhore, the Railway Member, is deeply interested in the advance of this country, he has not, so far as I am aware, shown any gesture of reducing the heavy freights in regard to the moving of our cotton products from one part of the country to another. As very ably pointed out by the Mover of this Resolution, it has been possible for foreign importers of long staple cotton to bring it in large quantities into this country, thus discouraging the cotton growers of the Punjab and Sind. Time was when the Punjab and Sind produced long staple cotton : time was when some of the finest products.....

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour) : I must ask the Honourable Member's pardon for interrupting him : but I should be glad to know, as one who has studied this question for many years past, at what time Sind produced long staple cotton in any quantity.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : Leaving Sind out, time was when finer counts, finer cloth and fine muslins were produced out of Indian cotton which found a welcome market in the oriental world. I would ask the Honourable gentleman to read Macaulay's Essays on the subject (Laughter) and to see how English and European ladies were proud of purchasing fine Indian-made muslins. When I said that time was when cotton was produced in India and when foreign cotton was not imported, the Honourable Member took advantage of the manner in which I was proceeding to curb my enthusiasm. I stand corrected. What I was trying to point out was this : that time was when India was one of the best cotton growers and cloth makers in the world, and we have ample evidence in historian Horace Hayman Wilson's books as to the position that Indian manufactured articles occupied in India and elsewhere. I do not want to labour that point. What I am trying to point out is this : as pointed out by my Honourable friend, Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon, they are growing long staple cotton in Sind : I hope the Honourable gentleman does not contradict that.

The Honourable Sir Frank Noyce : They are doing it now to some extent—I hope to an extent which will rapidly increase.

Mr. C. S. Ranga Iyer : I am very glad, I appreciate the way in which the Honourable Member has expressed his sympathy for the future long staple cotton growers of Sind. I now want that that sympathy should crystallise into a fact by a definite assurance by the Honourable the Railway Member and the Honourable the Labour and Industries Member that every effort will be made to encourage the long staple cotton growers and in good time every opportunity given by prohibitive action being taken against the importation of foreign long staple cotton, so that the indigenous agriculturist may have an opportunity and the indigenous millowner will more and more take indigenous long staple cotton instead of foreign cotton. Probably the argument of the millowner will be this : "We have to fight Manchester and Lancashire ; and, therefore, in order to fight Manchester and Lancashire we have to buy in the same market the same cotton that Manchester and Lancashire buy". My answer to that will be this : I would first fight those who are fighting us, like Japan, with methods of dumping. I will also try to provide the cloth that the masses of India want, and if Manchester and Lancashire have to be fought, I will fight them on fair terms by purchasing indigenous long staple cotton and also exploring the possibility of growing that cotton in as many parts of India as possible or in the same parts of India where they are grown now, in larger quantities, as the Honourable Member for Industries has just said. That is our case and in this Resolution, therefore, is involved the growth of our industries in harmony with the development of our agriculture, and it is the creation of this harmony between the indigenous industries and indigenous agriculture that will destroy the depression, both commercial and agricultural, with which we are face to face in the country today.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai (Sind : Non-Muhammadian Rural) : Sir, I strongly support this Resolution. As one coming from Sind, I am in a position to say that the present Sukkur Barrage that has been constructed at a heavy cost will suffer very much if a Resolution like this is not accepted. It was objected that in Sind long staple cotton was not

[Mr. Lalchand Navalrai.]

growing. But I am very glad to hear from the Honourable Member in charge of Industries that he is conceding that long staple cotton is being grown now in Sind. I can assure the House that I personally know that this improvement of cotton is going on a very large scale in Sind. Mr. Jenkins, who is in charge of this Agricultural Department in Sind, is doing his very best to see that Sind produces long staple cotton and very fine cotton too. It will be a blow to this barrage and to the growers of cotton in Sind if this Resolution is not accepted and no restrictions are put upon the imports of cotton into India. It is the whole of India that suffers on that account. It is not only the agriculturist who suffers, but the industrialist also suffers, and, therefore, it is high time now that the Government should recognise, when our own country is able to produce cotton of various kinds, the necessity of putting embargo on the import of cotton from foreign countries. The facts and figures that have been put forward by my friend, the Mover, who, in a way, I may say, is an expert in these things, as he has been dealing in cotton for a very long time, cannot be disputed for a moment, and his knowledge of this trade is first hand. Therefore, taking the facts and figures that he has prepared and given to the House, it is quite plain that this industry is suffering very much in this country, and the public are very anxious that the industries of India which have been annihilated should be revived. This is, therefore, one of the ways by which India's cotton industry can be rehabilitated, and as this industry is helping the growers, all possible help should be given to see that it is not handicapped in any way. Sir, this is a very modest Resolution, because it only asks that there should be some better protection given to cotton by imposing taxes or introducing some kind of prohibitory legislation to prevent the pouring into India of foreign cotton. Stress has been laid on the fact that this cotton industry is advancing in Sind and in the Punjab. It is no doubt true that it is growing in a larger quantity there, but it is growing elsewhere also, and, therefore, I think, Sir, the whole of India will be protected if this Resolution is accepted.

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Mr. President, I have great pleasure in supporting the Resolution moved by my friend, Haji Abdoola Haroon. I represent the agriculturists and also a constituency where cotton is grown in abundant quantities, and I may say that, on account of the fall in prices of cotton, and also on account of the Japanese boycott, cotton growers are on the brink of ruin. Therefore, Sir, I have absolutely no hesitation in supporting this Resolution which seeks to levy duties on imported cotton or to prohibit the importation of cotton, in order to induce the millowners to consume more of the cotton that is produced in this country.

Sir, only yesterday we heard the address of His Excellency the Viceroy who stated that the customs revenue had considerably fallen in this country on account of the diminution of imports of various goods into this country and of larger exports from this country. Of course, the country requires a favourable balance of trade, and it is good for it, but, at the same time, by having lesser imports, the customs duties will naturally go down, and that should give an anxious time to the Honourable the Finance Member. Hence I expect that the Honourable the Finance Member will lend his support to any measure which will give him more revenue ; but, Sir, I find the Honourable the Finance Member sitting by the side of the Honour-

able the Commerce Member, and it gives me a certain amount of misgiving, and I hope that my misgivings are not correct.

Sir, the Honourable the Mover of this Resolution has given some figures which show that India requires foreign markets for her over-abundant production of cotton. We find from the figures that Japan is our chief customer, and that she has been importing Indian cotton to a very large extent. I will give a few figures to show how much Japan has been importing cotton from India till they started the boycott. In the year 1930-31, Japan imported nearly 301,000 tons of cotton to the value of 21 crores of rupees, and out of the total exports in 1931-32 of cotton which amounts to 23 crores of rupees, Japan alone has imported 11 crores worth of cotton, and all the other countries are far behind Japan in the way of consuming Indian cotton, and hence we can readily understand what a blow it is to Indian cotton growers when a country like Japan which has been consuming such large quantities of Indian cotton has boycotted it. On the other hand, we find from the sea-borne trade of India that imports of cotton to India from other countries have been increasing in spite of the fact that India has been producing large quantities of cotton. We imported from Kenya nearly 19,000 tons of cotton to the value of 2 crores 80 lakhs of rupees in 1929-30, and in 1930-31, we imported 22,686 thousand tons to the value of 287 lakhs, and for the year 1931-32 my friend has given the figure and the imports of cotton are far in excess of the figures I have quoted. We are also importing cotton from Egypt and the United States. In the year 1931, when the Honourable the Finance Member came forward with the proposal to impose a duty on the importation of cotton, some of us felt that it would be detrimental to the textile industry of India. At that time when we opposed the Government, we were under the impression that the textile industries of India would consume more and more of indigenous cotton and thus encourage the consumption of indigenous cotton. But what do we find from the figures? We find that the textile industries of India, especially the Bombay mill industry, have been importing larger and larger quantities of cotton from Kenya. The reason why they are importing larger and larger quantities of cotton from Kenya is that many Indians and many Parsis have gone and settled in Kenya and have been growing long staple cotton, and naturally the Bombay mill industry want to help them by importing larger and larger quantities from Kenya. It is said that India is not producing long stapled cotton, and hence we have to go to Kenya and other places for long staple cotton for Indian mills. But, Sir, we find from the statistics that India also is growing long staple cotton to the extent of 15 lakhs of bales out of a total quantity of 60 lakhs of bales of cotton produced in India, and of this I find that the textile industry is using only about 50 per cent. and the other 50 per cent. is being wasted in mixing with short staple cotton and thus fetching a lower price. Hence, this duty on long staple cotton will encourage the cultivation of more and more long staple cotton in this country.

1 P.M.

There is another argument used by the millowners, namely, that we should not impose any duties on raw products, and they quote the Tariff Board's report in support of that contention. My submission is, however much that theory may hold good with regard to other countries, it does not hold good with regard to India. The reason is this. We find that great industrial countries like the United Kingdom, France and others have to depend upon raw products that are imported from other countries. They

[Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi.]

are highly industrial countries and they have not sufficient land to cultivate the raw products. Hence they have mainly to depend upon the importation of raw products from other countries. Therefore, any duties levied upon raw products will add to the cost of the manufactured goods which have to compete with the manufactured goods of other countries in open market. That is why it is advantageous for those countries not to levy any import duties upon raw products ; whereas India is differently situated. In India we are growing large quantities of cotton ; we are growing to the extent of nearly 60 lakhs of bales of cotton of which only 25 lakhs of bales are consumed here and large quantities are being exported. India being an agricultural country, we produce large quantities of raw products and this rule cannot apply.

The protection for Indian cotton proposed by the Honourable the Mover is indirectly of benefit to the industries also. They are now importing long staple cotton from miles and miles away after paying heavy freights and incurring other expenses due to the long distance. If the production of long staple cotton is developed in this country by giving this protection, then the mill industries will have the raw products at their very doors and thus they would save enormous cost ultimately. Hence, this duty is indirectly and ultimately beneficial to the industries themselves.

Again, it is said, and will be repeated by the industrialists, that India is producing larger quantities of short staple cotton only, and if the industries in India want to develop, they must have long staple cotton as the mills must produce finer kinds of goods. It is quite essential that Government should help in every way the growing of long staple cotton in India. In that case India will have a wider market for its cotton. At present it is only Japan and China and one or two other countries that are consuming Indian cotton. It is only those countries that have been producing larger and larger quantities of coarser goods, and hence there is a very good market for Indian cotton. Therefore our markets are very much restricted on account of our growing short staple cotton in larger and larger quantities. If India begins to grow long staple cotton in larger quantities, then she will have a world wide market, because all the European countries are producing finer goods and they require long staple cotton. Hence we need not depend upon only one or two countries for the consumption of our cotton, but we will have a wider field if India develops the production of larger and larger quantities of long staple cotton.

By levying duties on imported goods, it might be argued that we might provoke other countries to retaliate. That is a thing to be considered. There is the fear of retaliation from other countries. But what exactly will be the position in case of duty on imported raw cotton ? The two countries that have been consuming almost all our exports of raw cotton are Japan and China. On account of the imposition of heavy duties on the cotton goods imported from Japan for helping our indigenous textile industries, we have seen that Japan has already boycotted Indian cotton. We need have no fear in that direction, because they have completely boycotted us. As regards the other country, China, she is not in a position, on account of the chaotic conditions there, to boycott our goods. Leaving out these two countries, there are no other countries from whom we expect retaliation by our levying this duty on cotton.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : The Honourable Member has got only one minute more.

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi : There is another argument that is stated to the effect that cotton duties do not go in any way to help the cotton grower at present, because we are importing only long staple cotton which does not compete with our cotton and hence the Indian agriculturist, who produces only short staple cotton, will not be benefited by the protective duties at all. For this I would only quote the speech of the predecessor of the Honourable the Leader of the House when he supported the duty to be levied on the importation of cotton during the debate on the Indian Finance (Supplementary and Extending) Bill. Sir George Rainy said :

“ The very utmost that the industry could possibly complain of is, as I have said, that a desirable development would be unable to proceed quite so rapidly as in other circumstances perhaps it might have done. On the other hand, we have to set off the advantage to the cultivator. I do not propose to go into that in any detail but merely to say this. It does not in the least follow, because more than half of the cotton crop of India is exported and therefore no import duty can benefit the industry as a whole, it does not in the least follow that the duty may not be of very distinct benefit to a particular section of the cotton cultivators, and when my friend (*he was referring to Mr. Mody, who is the protagonist of the industrialists*) says that he presumes no one would say that the competition of imported cotton had kept down the price of Indian varieties, I would merely remind him of what my Honourable friend, the Finance Member, said on that subject that the effect of the duty, according to his information, had been to raise the prices of the Indian variety which, I think, comes to very much the same thing.”

Thus any rise in duty will tend to raise the prices and it would conduce to the growth of more and more of long staple cotton. Sir, with these words, I have great pleasure in supporting the Resolution moved by the Honourable the Mover.

The Assembly then adjourned for Lunch till Half Past Two of the Clock.

The Assembly re-assembled after Lunch at Half Past Two of the Clock, Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) in the Chair.

Rai Bahadur Kunwar Raghubir Singh (Agra Division : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I extend my wholehearted support to the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Seth Abdoola Haroon. There is no doubt that it is in the interests of the cotton growers and I happen to be one of them. Therefore, it is my bounden duty not only to my brother cotton growers, but also to my constituents that the proposition should be carried through. A doubt has been expressed that the motion is premature in view of the negotiations which are bound to come up for consideration between the Government of India and the representatives of Japan, and they point out that this action by the Assembly in carrying through this motion may prejudice the negotiations and the successful termination of those negotiations. Sir, we have to see the effect of the Cotton Textile Industry (Protection) Bill introduced by the Leader of the House. Then there is a fear that the duty proposed might affect the supply of long staple cotton which is grown only in the Punjab.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : It is also grown now in Sind.

Rai Bahadur Kunwar Raghubir Singh : And in Sind also. That long staple cotton will not be available in sufficient quantities for mills. But, Sir, the question of Japan has been before business men for long and they do not place much reliance on the words of those who say that Japan will start a complete boycott of Indian cotton. They say that it is only a fetish to think that Japan will be able to boycott all Indian cotton as her demands cannot be satisfied by the American cotton, and everybody knows that Japan's growing prosperity is an eye-sore to the United States of America ; hence it is hardly possible. It is, however, refreshing to think that an industrialist and a businessman like the Honourable Seth Abdoola Haroon should have thought of the prosperity of the cotton grower and to protect his interests. We should at this moment consider the pros and cons of the whole matter before we decide one way or the other. The needs of the situation should certainly be looked into and we should encourage the growing of finer cotton which would do away with the remedies as proposed in the present motion and there is no doubt that the growing of better cotton will receive an impetus by the action which has been proposed. I appeal to the Government to favourably consider the request of the agriculturists and also of businessmen. As my friend, Mr. Reddi, has shown, it would be as much in the interests of the businessmen and industrialists as the cotton growers themselves. I hope the Government will have regard for agriculturists and their prosperity especially in view of the great industrial awakening in the country that the finer cotton should be grown in India in sufficient quantities and thus this is one of the steps in the right direction and, therefore, I support the motion.

Sir Leslie Hudson (Bombay : European) : Sir, if I do not see eye to eye with the Mover of this Resolution, the wording of which I think could have been better framed, it is not that I have not the greatest sympathy with the agricultural community which is, in the last resort, the backbone of this country. But, Sir, there are two sides to this question. There is the cotton grower, but there is also the indigenous mill industry of India to which consideration must also be given and I cannot believe that any Honourable Member of this House really at the back of his mind believes that a tax on raw materials is a sound one, raw materials, that is to say, which are not produced at present in this country. It is true that in the Punjab American cotton is being grown, but it is not the equivalent of the longer staple cotton which we get from East Africa, Egypt and America and which is a necessity for our cotton mills. Mr. Lalchand Navalrai has told us that long staple cotton is now being grown in Sind.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Also longer staple cotton.

Sir Leslie Hudson : As the Sukkur Barrage has been in operation now for somewhat less than 18 months, the production of long staple cotton in Sind cannot be very great at present. No doubt it will grow and we all hope that it will be grown. When India is able to provide from her own soil the long staple cotton that is required by the mill industry of India, in order to make cloths to compete with those being imported into India from Japan and elsewhere, then, I am perfectly certain, that the nationalist spirit of the millowners will urge them to purchase the Indian produced article, provided it is of equal quality, rather than import it from abroad. I would specially stress the fact that these long staple cottons are necessary in the manufacture of our mills in India. The Honourable Member, Mr. Reddi, has given a considerable array of figures and I do not wish to

trouble the House to any extent with any more, but a comparison of the consumption of indigenous cotton in the Indian mills, with the imports of East African and American cotton, might be of interest.

In 1925-26, the consumption of bales of $3\frac{1}{2}$ cwts. each, in Indian mills, was 20 lakhs, imports of long staple cotton $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. In 1926-27, 21 lakhs consumption and imports $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. In 1927-28, 18 lakhs consumption, imports 188 thousand bales. In 1928-29, 20 lakhs consumption, imports 122 thousand bales. In 1929-30, 24 lakhs consumption, and imports $1\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs bales. In 1930-31, 23 lakhs consumption, imports $4\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs (that considerable increase is due to special circumstances in that year). In 1931-32, 24 lakhs consumption of Indian cotton in Indian mills and 5 lakhs imports. In this present year 1932-33, consumption in Indian mills of Indian cotton for a period of 11 months only has been 22 lakhs bales whereas imports have been less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs. I think the statement made by an Honourable Member opposite that the consumption of Indian cotton in Indian mills was being reduced or rather that the import of foreign cotton was being increased, thereby reducing the consumption of Indian cotton in Indian mills is not true. The figures that I have just given go to prove that that statement is not correct, if anything it is increasing, whereas the import of long staple cotton from abroad is going down. We have also heard about the question of export of cotton to Japan. I think I am right in saying that until a very recent date, the export of cotton from India to Japan averaged over 15 lakhs of bales per year. Last year, for the 10 months to the end of July, the exports of cotton to Japan were 4,70,000 bales and those in the present year for the same period are exactly double, namely, 9,40,000 bales. It is true that Japan has declared a boycott against Indian cotton and the latest information that I have received from Bombay is that the boycott is definite and effective. That boycott will remain in force no doubt until the result of the conference which is to be held here in the course of the next month is known. I feel, Sir, that the present Resolution could have been worded differently and still have attained the object desired by the Mover. We all want to see the cotton growers in India prosper, we all want to see the cotton growers in India grow longer staple cotton so that it can be used in the Indian mills, and I go further, there is no reason why, if a sufficient quantity of proper quality is grown, it should not be exported. But there is the other side of the case and I think the House should consider very very closely before they agree to this Resolution that a further duty should be placed on the import of raw materials used by the cotton mills in India which not only supply a vast consuming public, but also employ a very large quantity of labour.

The Honourable Sir Joseph Bhore (Member for Commerce and Railways) : Sir, it is a matter for some little regret that my Honourable friend has framed this Resolution in the terms in which it appears on the notice paper. Government have every sympathy with the cotton grower and, had this Resolution been framed in somewhat different terms, I do not think they would have the slightest difficulty in accepting it. I am sure that after my Honourable friend and those who have given him their support in this House have heard what I have to say, they will agree with me that no useful purpose would be served by pressing the Resolution in the terms in which it now stands before the House. I abstain from any but a passing reference to the Japanese boycott. There is much that I could say about it, but I refrain for obvious reasons. When a delegation from Japan is on its way to enter into negotiations, it is incumbent on every one of us to

[Sir Joseph Bhoze.]

abstain from saying anything which may sharpen the acerbity of feeling which unfortunately manifested itself in certain quarters a little time ago. I, therefore, deliberately deprive myself of this opportunity of removing many misapprehensions and of refuting many misrepresentations in this matter lest anything that I say should stir up, instead of allaying, feelings of resentment. What we want at the present moment is to foster a friendly atmosphere for the fruition of friendly negotiations. But I cannot refrain from placing certain facts before this House, facts which have been already referred to by my Honourable friend, Sir Leslie Hudson. I will do so without any comment, but I would request Honourable Members to examine very carefully the implications of the figures which I am placing before the House. I propose to give the House the figures of cotton exports from India to Japan in the last two years. I have brought those figures as much up-to-date as I possibly could. From September, 1931, to 10th August, 1932, the exports were in the neighbourhood of 5,00,000 bales. From September, 1932, to 10th August, 1933, the exports were 10,55,968 bales. Or if you prefer, let us confine ourselves to the last month and a half. The figures of export from Bombay to Japan are, from 1st July to 10th August, 1932, 5,000 bales, from 1st July to 10th August, 1933, 57,000 bales. Equally striking increases are to be found in the shipments of cotton from Karachi to Japan, the increase being in approximately, the same period, from 13,000 bales in the last year to about 47,000 bales in this year. Now, Sir, I will say no more on the subject of the boycott. After all, Sir, the reference to boycott in my Honourable friend's Resolution is, I take it, merely incidental and it is possible to deal with the substance of that Resolution without referring any further to boycott. Now, Sir, what is it that this Resolution wants us to do or recommends the Government of India to do? It recommends that either a prohibitive duty or, what amounts to an embargo, should be placed on foreign imports into this country; and what is the object of that? The object is stated to be to "give rise to consumption of Indian cotton", presumably in India. I am sure, there is no one in this House who does not know that Indian cotton is consumed in Indian mills, so that I presume it is just a question of a slight looseness of phraseology. What my Honourable friend obviously meant, I think, was to *increase* the consumption of Indian cotton by Indian mills. Of course, Sir, the fact of the matter is that most or all of the coarser counts or rather the less finer counts, for which alone Indian cottons are at the moment suitable, are being woven from Indian cotton. I should like to bring to the notice of the House that whereas in the year 1928-29 the Indian mills consumed something like 1,900,000 bales of Indian cotton, in the year 1932-33 they consumed something like 2,275,000 bales. In this year, namely, 1932-33, 83 per cent. of the cotton consumed by the mills in India was Indian cotton. From what I have said, Sir, it will be clear, firstly, that Indian cotton is being consumed in the Indian mills, that the bulk of the raw material used by Indian mills is Indian cotton, and that they have in the last few years been increasing year by year their consumption of Indian cotton.

Now, Sir, with the possibility of a misapprehension upon that major point out of the way I will come to a question which may naturally be asked by Honourable Members in the House. Taking as a basis, the figures of 1932-33 which I have just quoted, eighty-three per cent., as I have said, consists of Indian cotton. The House may very well inquire,

what about the remaining 17 per cent ? Let us analyse that 17 per cent. Of that 17 per cent., no less than 9 per cent. consists of long staple cotton from Egypt and Africa, definitely longer,—and I make this statement deliberately,—than anything that is grown in this country and which cannot be replaced commercially by any cotton in the country at the present moment. Now, Sir, practical agriculturists and cotton growers in this House will, I am sure, agree with me when I say that there would be as much sense in attempting to protect the Indian cotton grower by preventing the ingress of cotton which is not grown in this country at the present time as by preventing the importation of, say, musical instruments. But, Sir, we now come to the balance of 8 per cent. and, in the year to which I am referring, that 8 per cent. amounted to something like 200,000 bales, almost entirely from America. Much of this class of import does enter into competition with Indian cotton, but, Sir, with reference to what has been said by more than one Honourable Member, I would bring to the notice of the House, that imports of this particular kind of cotton, and, as a matter of fact, of foreign cotton generally, have definitely decreased. From 1st September, 1931, to 10th August, 1932,—and my Honourable friends will observe that I have taken the trouble to get them almost up to date figures,—American cotton imported into this country amounted to 280,000 bales. From 1st September, 1932, to 10th August, 1933, the import had fallen to 75,000 bales. That fall is also reflected in the total foreign cotton imported into this country. From 1st September, 1932, till 17th August, 1933, the total of foreign cotton which entered Bombay was 239,000 bales as against 538,000 bales in the corresponding period of the previous year. Now, Sir, there are three main points that I would like to make. The first point which, I think, emerges from the figures which I have given to the House, is that that portion of the foreign cotton which really enters into competition with the better qualities of Indian cotton is, speaking comparatively, extremely small ; having regard to the total production and the total consumption, I might almost describe it as infinitesimal. Then the second point that I would like to make is this, that at the present moment foreign cotton has to pay the following charges : half an anna a pound as import duty, freight and other similar charges, approximately another half an anna, fumigation charges, about 1/10th of an anna,—totalling something like 1,1/10th anna per pound. I do submit that that does constitute a measure of protection which is not by any means unsubstantial and I claim that this duty has had this effect that it has made Indian mills take a greater interest in Indian cotton. Now, Sir, the third point that I would like to make,—and this is a somewhat important and possibly a complicated point,—is this. I have attempted to show that the quantity of imported cotton which comes into competition with the finer qualities of Indian cotton is extremely limited. If we wanted to exclude that competition, if we wanted to eliminate that competitive importation, we would have to proceed in one of two ways. We might impose a prohibitive duty on and thus exclude all cotton of a staple competing with Indian cotton or we might entirely exclude all foreign cotton. The first of these is, from the practical point of view, not possible. It is not possible for Customs officers, except with an immense amount of trouble, to differentiate between imports of cotton of different staples and levy varying rates of duty according to the length of the staple. Therefore, we are driven to the other alternative, which is the entire

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exclusion of foreign cotton. Now, Sir, let us consider what would be the effect of the entire exclusion of foreign cotton. Very little cloth, I am told, is manufactured by the Indian mills purely and entirely from foreign long staple cotton. The bulk, indeed, is used in conjunction

3 P.M. with the shorter staple Indian cotton, the long staple foreign cotton providing the finer warp and the short staple Indian cotton, the coarser weft. The resultant cloth is—and that is the point I wish to emphasise—an article which enters into competition with foreign cloth and not with the cloth made by the Indian mills from Indian cotton. Now, to place an embargo upon foreign cotton would mean not merely that you would, to that extent, cripple the activities of the Indian mills, but that you would prevent the use of the shorter staple Indian cottons which are being used in conjunction with the longer staple variety for the production of these types of cloth. I do want to make it perfectly clear, however, that nothing that I have said and no arguments that I have used should be employed to criticise the Government at a later stage if they found it necessary for purely revenue purposes to increase the duties on cotton, and, secondly, I also want to make it perfectly clear that in altered circumstances it may so happen that the question of a protective duty for cotton may be deserving of very serious consideration.

What I want really to submit to the House is this : that so far as we are concerned, we can help and we are, as a matter of fact, helping the cotton grower in finding wider markets for his cotton. Honourable Members may remember that it was one of the conditions of the Trade Agreement entered into at Ottawa that the United Kingdom should do all in its power to extend the use of Indian cotton in Manchester. That undertaking is, I am glad to say, being implemented both in the letter and in the spirit. (*Mr. B. Das* : "Question.") My Honourable friend is ready to question anything, because I am afraid he has a sublime disregard for facts and figures. (Laughter.) This object is being steadily pursued. A Committee has been set up in England whose duty it is to do everything in its power to push the sale of Indian cottons. That Committee has taken from this country samples of Indian cotton, and it has actually got woven, from it, in conjunction, I take it, with other cotton from other countries, something like 80 varieties of cloth : these different varieties of cloth have been exhibited before the Manchester textile manufacturers and I have no doubt that that will ultimately bear very good and substantial fruit. Increased consumption cannot be secured in a day ; but even as it is, there are indications that in Manchester there is growing a greater interest in Indian cotton. Let me give to the House certain figures which, I am sure, will support what I have said. From the 1st September, 1931, to the 31st July, 1932, there were exported from Karachi to the United Kingdom 76,000 bales ; in the same period 1932-33, export had risen to 121,000 bales. From Bombay in the same period there was an export of 23,000 bales which had risen in the next year to 62,000 bales : that means a total of 183,000 bales in 1932-33 as against 99,000 bales in 1931-32. I hope Honourable Members will be satisfied from what I have said that the adoption of the course recommended by my Honourable friend, the Mover, is likely not merely to form a handicap for the cotton textile industry, but is likely to have some adverse effect upon the

Indian cotton grower himself. What we really want is, as has been said by more than one speaker, to help the growing of longer staple cotton in this country. If that is done, I have not the faintest doubt that not only will the Indian mills and Manchester take increasing quantities, but it will remedy what has been described as "India's vulnerability to any big variation in the demand for short staple cotton". Much, therefore, depends upon the improvement of cotton in this country. A great deal has been done, as Honourable Members are aware, by the Indian Central Cotton Committee which spends large sums of money every year on research. But the improvement of cotton is a very slow process. I think my Honourable friends, the practical cotton growers in this House, will admit it. It depends on research and on experiment and cannot be effected in a day. If this Resolution were so altered as to suggest that the Government of India should do all in their power to assist the growing of cotton, that they should do all in their power to try and obtain wider markets for Indian cotton and that, in ultimately fixing the level of duties or in coming to any trade agreement, they should place the interests of the cotton grower as high as they place any industrial interests in this country, Government would have no hesitation in accepting it. (Hear, hear.) With the assurance I have given, I hope my Honourable friend will be satisfied and will withdraw his Resolution.

Seth Haji Abdoola Haroon : Sir, after hearing the speeches on my Resolution and, particularly, after hearing my Honourable friend, Sir Joseph Bhore, I want only to say this. When I framed the Resolution, I had read in the newspapers about the boycott of Indian cotton by the Japanese. I framed the Resolution under an excitement. But after hearing the facts and figures given today showing the comparison between 1931-32 and 1932-33, I must say that the depression and exchange difficulties account for the lower figures of the former year. However, as my Honourable friend, Sir Joseph Bhore, has given full assurance to protect the Indian cultivator and grower of cotton, I gladly withdraw my Resolution.

The Resolution was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

RESOLUTION RE REPAYMENT OF HALF CURRENCY NOTES.

Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur (North Madras : Muhammadan) : Sir, I beg to move the Resolution that stands in my name. It reads thus :

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to reconsider the present policy of Government discouraging and, for that purpose, penalising the cutting of Currency Notes into halves for facility of transmission by post, as such transmission is considered by the business world to be required in the interests of business."

Sir, in moving this Resolution, I need hardly point out that for a very long time past, as a matter of fact, ever since the advent of British rule in this country, the business community has adopted a particular form for transmission of funds from one part of the country to the other. It has been the practice, for the purpose of making remittances from one part of India to another, and especially to such parts where there are no banks, to employ the post office as the medium of transmission, and, in

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so employing the post office, with a view to saving the charges and to expedite the business, it has been the practice to cut currency notes into halves, to send one portion of the halves by insured post insuring the packet for a nominal amount and the other portion likewise insured for another nominal amount. It must be conceded that the Government of India have recognised it at every step when passing legislation on currency matters. As a matter of fact, the last legislation on the subject was enacted by the Indian Currency Act of 1923, and in that enactment specific reference is made, while dealing with payments to be made in the case of currency notes mutilated or defaced, to the powers which are reserved to the Governor General in Council to frame rules with a view to seeing that the interests of the business community do not suffer when they follow the practice of transmitting the currency notes in halves. This is a practice which, during all these long years, has taken a firm hold of the business community, and, if it is the intention of the Government of India to discourage this practice, I think the rigour which is being applied by the Currency Department at the present day ought, in all propriety, to be applied at a period probably 50 years hence by which time the business community will become much more educated and much more familiar with the ordinary business methods. As it is, Sir, a great part of the business community, I mean those engaged in banking and in trade—I do not allude here to those banks which are more or less recognised by the State,—I am referring to those classes of bankers who carry on mostly *Hundi* transactions,—a large portion of this class of the business community is not far advanced yet, and if today they are pursuing the same old practice with a view to curtailing charges which otherwise they would have had to pay if they had recourse to transmission through banks or by post in the ordinary way as is done by private persons when remitting money from one place to another, I mean, if they adopt these methods, I think they are perfectly entitled to do so, especially in view of the fact that the facilities which they can have access to, the facilities which the Government have provided, are not quite adequate to meet their needs.

Now, Sir, there are four forms, four methods by which a business man can make remittances from one part of the country to another. The first is the system of what is known as supply bills, which, I take it, are brought into effect through Treasury Offices maintained by Government. But, Sir, may I ask, what is the total number in this wide continent of India of such Government Treasury Offices which afford reasonable facilities to the business community to carry on their transactions? I am afraid, Sir, the total number of these treasury offices is not more than 300 in the whole of India. Then, Sir, when it is remembered that the bulk of the business community is not well educated and is unfamiliar with business methods, it is easy to realise that they want to avoid as much as possible the formalities which have to be gone through and the delays consequent upon their resorting to this method of transmission. Unless, therefore, Sir, sufficient facilities are afforded to the business community to transact business through these treasury offices by the medium of supply bills by increasing the number of these treasury offices, especially in up-country stations, it will be impossible for these business people to carry on their every day transactions.

Next, Sir, we have what are known as the facilities afforded by the banks, and those consist of bank drafts and currency telegraphic transfers. It is well known that the charges which have got to be paid on telegraphic transfers and bank drafts are very high considering the volume of business which the commercial community transact. As a matter of fact, the usual charges that are levied are four annas per Rs. 100 up to Rs. 1,000 in the case of bank drafts, and two annas for every Rs. 100 up to Rs. 10,000, and over Rs. 10,000 the charge is Re. 0-1-0 per Rs. 100. It is easy to realise that businessmen who have got to remit funds, who have got to make remittances, almost every day of their life, of sums amounting to thousands of rupees, cannot afford to spend as much as the banks charge, and to avoid the formalities and the prohibitive charges and the delays consequent upon the identification of the parties to be paid at the other end in the case of bank drafts, they resort to the easiest, the quickest and the cheapest method which at the outset I have described in detail, namely, the cutting of currency notes into halves and sending them by insured post for a nominal amount. Then, Sir, what is the total number of the branches of the Imperial Bank of India, on which the business community are asked to rely for the purpose of such transactions? It is not more than, I believe, 108 throughout India.

The last method to which resort is generally had, but towards which the business community are very, very shy at the present moment on account of the trade depression, is the system of *hundis*. In these days of depression, the *hundi* business is done on a very small scale as it is rather foolish to make remittances of large amounts through *hundis* unless the party who issues them is perfectly sound at least up to that amount. It may happen in up-country places where business firms have their agents to make purchases on their behalf and have to meet their liabilities in time that a banker is not available who is of a status such as will ensure to the transmitter his absolute soundness and recourse has necessarily to be had to other forms of transmission, and as I have already submitted, the quickest, the cheapest and the simplest course is to adopt the method which they have all along adopted. Sir, I would even go to the extent of saying that the ordinary method of sending notes by insured post, insured up to the full amount of the notes contained in the envelope, has in some cases resulted in the absolute ruin of the remitting merchants. I refer to those cases in which these notes insured up to the full amount have been lost and the procedure which has to be adopted before payment can be made of these lost notes is such that the man who has lost them has got to wait for months together before he can get their value, and in the business world where one has to meet one's commitments and liabilities in time—where time is of the essence of the contract—it is easy to imagine what the result is of such delay in getting payments of currency notes lost in transit which have been insured to their full value. To obviate all these difficulties, merchants have, if I may say so, from time immemorial, resorted to this practice which I assert is perhaps the best method of making remittances from one part of the country to another.

Two main considerations, I believe, would weigh with the Government when making legislation as to the refund of the value of currency notes. The foremost consideration would be that Government are not cheated in these matters; that is to say, that Government have not got

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to pay for spurious claims. That is very reasonable. The next consideration, but a consideration which in this particular case ought not to weigh very much with the Government, is that it stands to lose a good deal of its revenue by the method which the business community has chosen to adopt. May be that because the business community insures half notes for a nominal sum the post office is deprived of its revenue. No doubt it is, but when it is recalled that such a practice has grown all these years and has taken a deep hold on the business community and that legislation which has been passed from time to time—currency legislation—could not but take note of it, could not but recognise it as a custom which is prevalent, it is not safe that the Government should pay much heed to the consideration of revenue. As I said, the main consideration ought to be that no spurious half notes are changed at the currency office for the full value of the notes. It may be that the Government are actuated by a desire to get rid of this practice altogether. But, as I have said, the practice is deep rooted, and it is deep rooted, because of the absence of other facilities to which recourse would have been had if they were preferable to the one to which the business community has been used. If it is the determined idea of the Government to do away with, to put a stop to, to prohibit the cutting of these currency notes into halves, the first thing that they should do is to increase the number of branches of the Imperial Bank, to increase the number of the Government treasury offices and then to insist that no currency note should be divided into two. Then Government will be perfectly justified, but, as it is, they have not entirely prohibited the cutting of currency notes into two. They only say that they want to discourage this practice, and, to effect that object, the Controllers of Currency have been working the rules which have been framed under the Indian Currency Act, with the utmost rigour. The result of that unfortunately is that private persons have off and on lost half the value of their remittances, and some banks, I understand, have lost enormous sums. When a half note which bears one part of the serial letter and number is produced before a Currency Officer, payment is made for the value of that half note. Suppose it is a 100-rupee note, payment is made of Rs. 50. And if it happens that the other half is missing through post, missing in the course of transit by the postal authorities as an insured letter, and notice is given at once to the authorities concerned and a claim is made by the presenter of the first half note for the value of the other half which is missing, the Controller says : “ You cannot get it, because we must be convinced that the other half will never be produced before us.” That is the interpretation which I understand has been put by the Controller of Currency in giving effect to Rule 6 (a) of the Rules made under the Indian Currency Act which reads as follows :

“ Claims to the value of a half note shall be rejected unless the number of the note is identified by the enquiring officer on the half note and the half note is entire and has not been divided and joined together.”

In giving effect to this rule, the Controller of Currency has issued a communiqué on the 2nd August, 1932, in the following terms :

“ It has come to notice that some misapprehension exists as to the rules regarding the payment of value of currency notes of the denomination exceeding Rs. 10 which have been divided into halves. It is therefore notified for general information that no change has been made in the Rules which were promulgated in the Government of India, Finance Department, Notification No. F-4 (XV)-F-27, dated the 19th May 1927, and

that cut notes will be paid as usual provided both halves presented form parts of the same note and provided the numbers on each half are clearly identifiable. A large number of claims have been made recently for full value of cut notes although the notes have been cut in such a way that the serial letter and number on one of the halves have been divided. Attention is invited to Rule 6A of the Currency Notes (Refund) Rules."

The worst thing about it is that in working the rules, the currency officers are very rigid. Now, take for example a hundred rupee note. The serial letters and numbers are very close to the dividing line and if the note is cut at the dividing line, it is just possible that one of the serial numbers or letters is also cut, but I submit that if the two halves are placed together by the Controller of Currency or the Currency Officer, he will feel convinced that one forms a complement to the other. When they are placed side by side, there ought to be no difficulty in identification of these notes, but knowing that it is the object of the Government to discourage the sending of these notes in halves, they intentionally enforce this rule with the utmost rigour. Sir, in this connection, I think I should point out to the House that the various Chambers of Commerce, both European and Indian, were unanimous in adopting a Resolution against the rigour at Calcutta early in January this year. I believe the Honourable the Finance Member was present at the meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce. Speaking there, the Honourable the Finance Member said that if the Government of India are convinced that the facilities now provided are not adequate for remittance purposes, some change will perhaps have to be made, but that they were not so convinced. At the end of his speech, the Honourable the Finance Member said that, in view of the creation of a Reserve Bank in the near future, it is but meet and proper that the difficulty which are encountered in the Currency Department of the Government of India should not be allowed to fall on the shoulders of the Reserve Bank and that it is in a way to facilitate the work of the issue department of that bank that Government are discouraging this practice with a stern hand. Sir, as I have explained, looking to the depressed condition of the business community and the lack of facilities which we find in this country and looking to the enormous area of this country and the very limited number of banks or treasury offices in this country through whose medium these remittances can be made, I think the Government of India would be perfectly justified if they will at least issue instructions to the currency authorities to apply these rules with less rigour as was the case a few years ago. Sir, I move.

Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) : Motion moved :

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to reconsider the present policy of Government discouraging and, for that purpose, penalising the cutting of Currency Notes into halves for facility of transmission by post, as such transmission is considered by the business world to be required in the interests of business."

There are three amendments on the Order Paper and the Chair finds that Mr. Ramakrishna Reddi's amendment is the most comprehensive of all and the Chair thinks that on the whole it will suit the convenience of the House if Mr. Ramakrishna Reddi is called upon to move his amendment.

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi (Madras ceded Districts and Chittoor : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I beg to move the amendment

[Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi.]

which stands in my name to the Resolution which has been moved so ably by my friend, Mr. Muazzam Sahib Bahadur :

“ That at the end of the Resolution the following be added :

‘ and to amend the rules with retrospective effect, in such a manner as to secure the following objects :

- (i) When the owner of currency notes has received payment of half the value, being able to produce one half of the notes, the other halves being lost, he should be able, either on immediate proof of his ownership, after due public notice or on non-production or non-presentation of the other halves, within a fixed period to obtain payment of the value of the lost half.
- (ii) When the second halves of currency notes are presented for payment after half their value has been paid on the presentation of one-half of these notes, payment should not be made to such presenter without notice to the person who has received the previous payment and except on proof that he had the preferential title to the currency notes.
- (iii) When the owner of a currency note, having received payment of half the value, being able to produce one half of the cut note which bears the complete undivided serial letter and number, produces the other half of the cut note which has been cut in such a way that the serial letter and number has been divided, but when both the halves are put together, are identifiable as parts of the same note, and its serial letters and numbers are clearly identifiable, he should be able to obtain payment of the value of the other half ‘.’

Sir, the Honourable Member who moved this Resolution has clearly brought out the difficulties under which the public suffer owing to the changes that have been made in the Paper Currency Act with regard to the sending of currency notes by post and, if that Resolution has stood by itself, it only brought out the difficulties which the public suffer under the present rule, whereas if these amendments are added, they will show the way in which those difficulties could be removed. As has been pointed out so lucidly by the Mover, there are only four facilities provided for the public to transact business of sending money from one place to another. There are Government treasuries of which only very few people take advantage and there is the banking system which has come into this country only very recently of which excepting English educated people and business concerns very few other people take advantage. The other method is by means of *Hundis* and the last method is to send the money by means of post office. The last one is the only popular method of sending the money from one place to another for the masses. This method of cutting notes has been in vogue in this country for a very long time and for very valid reasons. In the first place, it ensures economy and, in the second place, it ensures safety. When we send half notes by post office, we do not insure those half notes to the full value, but we give only a nominal value : hence, the postal charges will not come up to much. That is the reason why this method has become so popular in this country. Then there is the safety. If we send full notes by insurance through the post office, they might be lost and might not be traced at all. In many instances the whole notes are lost for ever. On the other hand, if we send the half notes, they will not be of value to any person who steals them : hence there is still a remedy in the hands of the person who sends the money to recover the value as he is in possession of the other halves of the notes. Therefore, it is no wonder that the country took to the method of sending money from one place to another by means of cut notes. Now, the rules that existed till 1923 were very favourable. According to them

if half notes were lost during the transit, the person who was the owner of the notes could go to the Currency Officer and show to him the other halves. He could prove to the Currency Officer that he was the owner of the lost halves also, and if the latter was satisfied that there was sufficient proof of the ownership, he would immediately pay the whole amount or would ask him to execute a certain indemnity bond and pay that amount, or he might fix certain time within which to find out if the other halves were produced by anybody and then he would pay the full amount of the notes to the owner. Under the changed rule which came into vogue in the year 1927, the owner of the other halves cannot receive the full value ; he will be paid only half the value.

[At this stage Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) vacated the Chair which was then occupied by Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury).]

He will be asked to prove to the satisfaction of the Currency Officer that the other half notes will not, for ever, be produced at all. It is an impossible condition, because the owner may not know under what circumstances the other half notes were lost and in whose hands the other half notes have fallen. He cannot say whether the person who has stolen those half notes will produce them or destroy them. All these things the owner is not expected to know. Hence the Currency Officer, before whom he preferred his claim, may not be satisfied that he has proved to his satisfaction that the other half notes will not be produced. I will give an illustration. Certain half notes are sent by the post office and they are stolen away during the transit. The owner goes to a Currency Officer and says that half notes have been stolen during the transit and he is not responsible at all for the loss, and claims the full payment on his producing the other halves. The Currency Officer wants him to give an undertaking that the other half notes will not be forthcoming at all. You can easily imagine, Sir, how impossible it is for him to give that undertaking. They might have fallen into the hands of a thief or they might have fallen into the hands of another person who might produce them sometime hence, and claim payment for them. So it is not possible for him to prove this. Then there is another difficulty. The Currency Officer will say that he will pay only for the half of the notes, that is to say, half the value of the full notes which he has lost. So, if the other half has fallen into the hands of a thief and if he happens to know that the owner has already preferred his claim to a Currency Officer, he will not produce the other halves lest he might be caught and consequently would destroy them completely. In that case, the Government will stand to gain the half of the value of these notes though they have solemnly undertaken to pay the whole amount when the currency notes are produced. It is not a mere illustration, but it is actually what happens every day.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : The Honourable Member has got two minutes more.

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi : Sir, there is the Bank of Hindustan, Limited, in Madras. Two of its branches have sent as much as Rs. 35,000 of currency notes in halves to their head office in Madras which were duly received. The branches subsequently sent the other halves and these halves were lost by the negligence of the Postal Department. Then the head office immediately went to the Currency Officer and reported the

[Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi.]

matter and also reported it to the Police saying that the other halves have been lost during the transit. The Currency Officer said that under the rules they will be entitled to get only half of the whole amount and not the whole amount. Those are the difficulties and, it is in order to remove those difficulties, that I have moved parts 1 and 2 of my amendment.

With regard to part 3, as there is not sufficient time at my disposal, I shall try to be brief. When the note is cut for the purpose of transmission, it must be cut exactly in the middle. If the scissors go to the other side and cut out a portion of the serial number, then the Government refuse to pay for that portion of the half the numbers of which have been divided. And they will pay a moiety only for the one-half which contains the full number. It is really a very great hardship as many people are liable to cut the serial numbers by inadvertence when cutting these notes into halves for transmission. This rule came into vogue only from 1927 and, before that, there was no such restriction. My amendment is intended to remedy this grave injustice. My amendment is that if a person, who has received half the amount after producing the half which bears the complete number, is able to produce the other half of the note which has been so cut as to divide the serial number and when both the halves are brought together, he could prove clearly that they form part of one and the same note and that they contain the serial numbers, then he must be entitled for the payment of the whole amount. That is the purpose of my amendment which I have moved.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : Amendment moved :

“ That at the end of the Resolution the following be added :

‘ and to amend the rules with retrospective effect, in such a manner as to secure the following objects :

- (i) When the owner of currency notes has received payment of half the value, being able to produce one half of the notes, the other halves being lost, he should be able, either on immediate proof of his ownership, after due public notice or on non-production or non-presentation of the other halves, within a fixed period to obtain payment of the value of the lost half.
- (ii) When the second halves of currency notes are presented for payment after half their value has been paid on the presentation of one-half of these notes, payment should not be made to such presenter without notice to the person who has received the previous payment and except on proof that he had the preferential title to the currency notes.
- (iii) When the owner of a currency note, having received payment of half the value, being able to produce one half of the cut note which bears the complete undivided serial letter and number, produces the other half of the cut note which has been cut in such a way that the serial letter and number has been divided, but when both the halves are put together, are identifiable as parts of the same note, and its serial letters and numbers are clearly identifiable, he should be able to obtain payment of the value of the other half ‘.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya (Madras : Indian Commerce) : Sir, this is my maiden speech, an old maiden's speech in this House and if I am not able to express myself clearly on this occasion, you will please excuse me. As the time proceeds and as I gather more experience, I shall try to make myself clearer to the House. Now, Sir, to come to the subject, my Honourable friend, Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib, had put in his Resolution practically in the form in which it has been now moved as an amendment, but the Assembly Department put their scissors into it and

the result was that the first portion of it got into the ballot and the second portion disappeared and as such it became practically useless like a currency note which is cut ! The Assembly Department accepted the first part, but would not agree to give full value to the second part. However, that is a minor matter and we need not discuss it any more.

Now, one thing which I do not understand is why the Government are so very keen to penalise everybody who cuts a currency note. The Government go out of their way to interpret the rules in such a way that it becomes practically impossible for anybody to get full value of the note the wording of which is "I promise to pay on behalf of the Government of India the sum of Rs." The main thing is the payment of money. If it were the case of any other negotiable instrument, other than a Government currency note, it would be open to a party to compel the man who wrote the promissory note to give another in lieu of it, but as the Government rules are very arbitrary, one-sided and very stringent, they have themselves fully recognised the right of the public to cut these notes into halves and it is for that purpose that the rules were promulgated so that the public may not suffer by any mutilation or cutting of these notes. I do not see why the Government now at this stage, after having allowed the practice to get established so wide and for such a long time and which the public has found so very convenient, should come forward to enforce these new rules. I understand, as has been given out by my Honourable friend, that the new Reserve Bank is coming and as such the Government do not wish to saddle it with the inconvenient procedure or responsibility in the matter of payment of half currency notes as they have been doing all these days. I think this brilliant idea of discouraging the cutting of currency note started with Sir Basil Blackett who intended to give a Reserve Bank to India. He planned well, he tried to give India a Reserve Bank, but sometimes as it happens our best laid plans go wrong. The result is, we never got a Reserve Bank, but we got these stringent rules. I very much sympathise with the present Finance Member who got an inheritance of these bad rules and the unpopularity of working these rules, but not the Reserve Bank. I learn that the practice of cutting currency notes is so large and so wide that practically 75 per cent. of the currency notes of the denomination of Rs. 100 go back to the currency offices only cut. It is not only the commercial community or the ignorant public that is responsible for cutting the notes. I understand that Government servants and even the Members of the heaven born services also cut the notes. But what could they do ? Supposing a member of that service resides in a district and there is no branch of any bank there and he wants to remit the funds, what has he got to do ? The easiest and natural way is to cut these notes and send them in halves, and when he is cutting them and also talking with some other person, the scissors go a little astray and the letter or number of the note is also cut and the Currency Officer says : "No, we will not pay the money." The result is that that gentleman is put in a fix. But, as he belongs to the heaven born services, he takes up the matter seriously with the Treasury Officer and when he addresses the Currency Officer he might probably say : "His is a *bona fide* case and so he should be paid." But, in the case of those who have not the good fortune to belong either to those services or to any particular community, they have to suffer. Now, my Honourable friend has already told you the few methods of remittances which

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are available. He has omitted to say about the postal money orders ; but if you send any money by postal money order, you have to pay practically one per cent. and at the same time you cannot send more than Rs. 600 by a money order though you can send several money orders. Similarly, if you want to insure your full currency notes, you cannot do it for more than Rs. 3,000. Of course, it is said that you can send 30 or even 300 covers of Rs. 3,000 each, but the difficulty of writing out those forms and then signing them at the other end and complying with all these formalities is great. Besides, the charges are very prohibitive. It is said that it is in India only that this practice of cutting currency notes exists and nowhere else. How is it ? But they forget that in other countries like France, the Bank of France practically allows free remittance throughout the country. Similarly in England they have got over ten thousand Bank Offices or Branches and the habit of banking and of drawing cheques is also very well developed, and it is not at all necessary for them to cut the notes. Rather it is easier for them to write a crossed cheque and send it out than cutting these notes and then pasting them at the other end. Sometimes we have to paste them at the post office where the gum pot is so full of foul bacteria or germs that it is hardly possible for anybody to make use of it.

I will now come to the main point in the amended Resolution that has been proposed. I may add that when the original rules of 1921 were altered in 1927, they were done under the universal protest of the public. Though the public were against it and all the Indian Chambers and the English Chambers were against it, the Government of India insisted on making these changes in the refund rules in spite of all opposition. I should like to read some of the views expressed by the Associated Chambers on that occasion so that the House may know definitely how the rules were promulgated in spite of the vehement protests of both the commercial community and the general public.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : I would remind the Honourable Member that his time is limited.

Mr. Vidya Sagar Pandya : Thank you, Sir :

“ The Association pointed out that the facilities for transferring money from the larger Indian cities to towns, mines, plantations and agricultural estates in the mofussil were insufficient to meet the requirements of commerce and industry, and the public would be very seriously inconvenienced if the restrictions outlined by the Government of India were imposed. It was added that bankers and merchants consulted on the subject saw no alternative to the practice of remitting money in halves of currency notes to trading and industrial concerns away from the larger Indian cities, and obstacles ought not therefore to be placed in the way of those who resorted to the practice.”, etc., etc.

As my time is limited, I will not read any more, but deal with the subject of clauses (i) and (ii) of the amendment. I wish to draw the attention of the House to the difference in the rules made in 1921 and in 1927. Under the rules of 1921, the position was quite satisfactory. Under rules 13 and 14 thereof, if the party which lost one half of the currency notes could prove to the satisfaction of the Currency Officer and the Deputy Controller that the whole note was his property at the time of the loss, the Deputy Controller, if satisfied with the proof, acted in one of two ways : either the claim was paid at once or was ordered

to be paid after the expiration of a specified period in order to see if any other persons claimed the ownership and value of the note. This latter procedure was quite suitable to cases where the missing half was lost in transit or was alleged to be stolen and by the provisions relating to the delay and indemnity the Currency Department could make their position completely safe. But these rules were changed in 1927. Under the new rule 14, when a half note is presented, the Currency Officer is authorised to pay only half the value unless he is satisfied that the counterpart has been lost or destroyed in such circumstances that there is no probability of its being presented at some future date. And the meaning which the Currency Department puts on the word "lost" is very peculiar. What they mean by "lost" or "completely destroyed" is that it will never be recovered or presented. My friend has spoken about the case of the Bank of Hindustan, Limited, Madras. There all the formalities required by the Currency Officer were duly complied with and the Currency Officer was completely satisfied that the notes belonged to them. But the interpretation he put on the rules was that it must be proved that there is no physical possibility of the lost half notes being again presented. Now, the Police Department and the Postal Department have informed the Currency Department of the loss and they know perfectly well that the thief would never dare to produce these notes and yet they say that they will not pay. But what is most curious and amazing is that they say that even if the thief,—these are not the exact words, but this is really what it amounts to,—that even if the thief comes forward and presents the missing halves, they will pay him and, at the same time, they will not inform the Bank of Hindustan, Limited, Madras. That is a peculiar way of dealing with things and there are a number of cases like that. I do not think it is the intention of the Finance Member to balance a deficit budget by means of recovering money out of these lost or mutilated or half-cut notes. I do not think there is any intention of that kind.

Mr. Deputy President (Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury) : The Honourable Member's time is up.

Mr. S. C. Sen (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce : Indian Commerce) : Sir, I fully support the original Resolution and the amendment moved in this matter. India is more or less an agricultural country and there are very few banking facilities in the mufassil towns and even the post offices in the mufassil are sometimes five or ten miles apart. There are few *mahajans* in the interior who can afford to pay the money at once. In these circumstances, banking facilities which occur in the western countries cannot be availed of by the ordinary public, nor can the homely system, which is prevalent in this country, be availed of easily. In those circumstances, the ordinary and the only course left to the people to send money to distant places is to cut the notes in half and send them by insured or registered post. I do not understand why there should be any difficulty on the part of Government, in cases in which one-half of such notes is lost, to pay money upon proof satisfactory to them that the whole of the money belonged to the person and has been lost. It is only a matter of proof and, if some facility is given in the matter of proof, I do not see that there can be any difficulty on the part of Government. I do not think it is Government's intention to disapprove of the method, which has been in existence from the time when the notes came to be circulated in this country, of cutting the notes.

[Mr. S. C. Sen.]

They know perfectly well that in a country like this, where banking facilities are so few, the notes should be and ought to be allowed to be transferred from place to place and safely by means of cutting them in two. I am surprised to find,—I did not know it,—that there has been a change in the procedure as regards the rules of 1927. The former rules were all right and I remember I availed myself of that rule on more than one occasion. It often happens that the packet has been lost in transit. All that is needed for the safety of Government is to have ample proof that the whole of the notes belonged to me and was sent by me. I think the money should be given upon indemnity or after some time having expired after due notice is given in the newspapers. I do not see why that procedure cannot be adopted even at the present time, and I do hope the Finance Member, with his wide outlook for business facilities for the public, will accept the Resolution.

Mr. Lalchand Navalrai : Sir, the first question involved in this consolidated amendment is with regard to the cutting of currency notes into two. How coincident it is that the original Resolution which was presented on a paper, which I might call a note, was cut into half in the ballot ! It has been said that one half of it was accepted by the ballot and the other half was not successful ; but it is a happy thing that in this House both the halves have been patched up into a consolidated amendment and presented like a whole patched up currency note for consideration of the House. This incident is a good augury for allowing a currency note to be cut into halves and patched up subsequently.

First, as regards the cutting of notes : the whole claim is based upon the difficulty in practice. From several points of view it is necessary that these notes should be sent in halves to the banks and to other people. This practice was in vogue before and now certain impediments or, what I might call, fantastic difficulties have been placed in the way. When you send half a note, it is absolutely secured, because if you send the whole and, if the whole is lost, then the whole of the value is gone.

[At this stage Mr. President (The Honourable Sir Shanmukham Chetty) resumed the Chair.]

But if half a note is sent and the other half is lost, the money can be recovered under certain circumstances under the present rules. So I cannot see why the old practice should not be continued and why these notes should not be cut into halves. The difficulties that are now placed in the way of cutting notes are, if I may call them, merely fanciful, because it gives discretion to the officer who receives these notes to pay or not as he likes : I can give an example which I got from a very reliable authority. An officer got a Rs. 500 note, probably as his pay, and he had to send it to the bank. He thought as usual that it was safe to send half of it, sent : and so he began to cut it : but, in cutting it, he severed it in such a way that one half of the figure one was in one half and the other in the other half note : that was the only fault ; and, when the note went to the Currency Officer, he said the note would be rejected. When the two halves were put together, they formed one whole, but on this technical objection the note was about to be forfeited. Of course, in this case, the person concerned happened to be an officer of standing and he put his case in a persistently strong manner and he was allowed

to get the full value of his note. But I do not know what would have happened if it had been a person in an ordinary position : perhaps the note would have been forfeited to Government. Therefore, I submit that it would be wholly beneficial to the public if the old practice and the old rule is followed so far as this matter is concerned.

As regards the second portion of the amendment, I cannot for a moment see why this rule should stand. The former rule was that when half the note was presented to a Currency Officer, he was allowed to give the whole money on getting a certain indemnity ; and the indemnity was that if anybody came thereafter to lay a claim, he would be responsible. Thus, under the old rule, in 1921, the whole payment was being made on this condition. That was a very good and salutary provision. But that has now been changed and, at present, it is left to the discretion of the officer to give the whole of the money only on one condition, i.e., that if the officer is satisfied that there will be no probability of the other half coming forward or if he is satisfied that it is actually lost, then only he can give the whole of the money and not otherwise. Can this not be a case of misappropriation by Government, if I may call it so ? It is not possible to satisfy an officer that the other half will or will not be forthcoming. If it has been stolen and if subsequently the number is notified, it may not be presented at all : the thief may cut it up or put it on as a wall paper ! How can the Currency Officer, therefore, be satisfied that the other half will not be forthcoming ? Is not this fantastic ? I, therefore, hope that Government will accept the second amendment.

I think the third portion is a very reasonable one. It says that payment should not be made to the presenter of the second half without notice to the person who has received previous payment except on proof that he had a preferential title to the currency note. I think this is reasonable, because, when the other man brings the note, he will come and ask for the money ; but the other half has been paid to another man. If he has taken it wrongly, then he must explain ; for that purpose it is necessary that both men should be before the Currency Officer for determination of the note's identity and the ownership ; and, therefore, it is very necessary that he should be given notice and, further, the other man, who comes with the other half, must be called upon to prove that he has got a preferential title ; otherwise he should not be given the money. I think the whole consolidated Resolution is a very good one and I hope it will commend itself to the House.

Mr. S. C. Mitra (Chittagong and Rajshahi Divisions : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : Sir, I support this Resolution with its amendment. I would like to know from the Honourable the Finance Member if Government are definitely against the policy of cutting notes of higher denominations into halves : if that is so, I think it should be plainly stated and there should be rules prohibiting it. I also want to know from the Finance Member if people took advantage of this device and cheated the Government when the older rules prevailed. That might be a consideration with the House not to accept the Resolution. If Government are not opposed to the policy of cutting notes or from their past experience when the more convenient rule was prevalent Government did not suffer in any way, then it lies heavily on the Honourable the Finance Member to prove to the House why they have changed the old rules to the new one. It must be admitted, as it has been strongly stressed by all the Honourable

[Mr. S. C. Mitra.]

Members that India is not in a par with other advanced countries as regards use of instruments of credit. We have not several banks nor have we acquired the habit of using bank-cheques, not to speak of villages, but even in our big towns and cities. Therefore, the proposition that in other countries there are Reserve Banks and the method of cutting notes there is prohibited is not applicable to India. I think it needs no argument to convince the Honourable the Finance Member that, though in an ideal State, as my Honourable friend, the Mover, put it, say 30 years hence, it may be possible to prohibit this method, you cannot do so now, and that view is strongly supported by the Associated Chambers of Commerce. For the time being, therefore, the older facilities for remittance of money by cutting notes into halves should be permitted.

In this connection I should like to quote another portion from the remarks of the Associated Chambers of Commerce, which were forwarded to the Government of India. A portion has been already read by my friend, Mr. Pandya. This is what they say :

“ It was considered that the wide circulation and general acceptance of currency notes throughout the country, particularly the notes of small denominations, was of the utmost importance, as tending to accustom the public to the use of instruments of credit in preference to minted coin and discouraging hoarding of the precious metals. It was felt that the Government of India's proposals would tend to detract from the developing popularity of currency notes, and this objection outweighed the advantages which Government expected to derive from the proposed restrictions. The Association asserted that the time had not yet come for discouraging or prohibiting a means of remittance which was so useful and so popular, and there was reason to apprehend that curtailment of the privilege of cutting notes would cause a permanent discount on currency notes in places where they, at the moment, are circulated at par or at a small premium.

The Association reminded Government that Indian currency notes were used in countries adjacent to India. In Iraq the law provided that whole notes should not be remitted by post, and Indian trade in that country, as also in Baluchistan, Southern Persia, the Persian Gulf, Aden, Somaliland and the East Coast of Africa would be seriously hampered if obstacles to meeting claims on cut notes were imposed on India.

Therefore, Sir, it is clear that it is not only the Indian Chamber of Commerce, but the Associated Chambers of Commerce also agree that the Indian people, at least for some time to come, should have the older privilege of sending their notes in halves. Sir, on these grounds, I support the Resolution.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster (Finance Member) : Sir, I think perhaps the House has heard enough of the case for this Resolution and it is time that something was said on the other side. Before I commence my serious remarks, I should like to congratulate my friend opposite, the self-styled “ old maid ” from Madras on what, I think I may describe, as a very precocious maiden speech. At the outset I should like to make two points, because I think the House perhaps has been led into a somewhat misleading atmosphere on this question. Most of the speakers have implied in their remarks that Government have quite recently adopted a most unreasonable practice. I would remind Honourable Members that the rules which we are now discussing were introduced in May, 1927, that is to say, they have been in operation for 6½ years. They operated throughout all that period without causing any great sense of grievance, and I think that I detect in the outcry, which has now been raised, the reactions which have been perhaps stimulated by my friend

from Madras whose bank or the bank with which he has been connected has suffered a very serious loss through the operation of these rules. I think, Sir, that it is significant that this is the first,—I think I may take it,—that this is the first occasion where these rules, although they have been in operation for 6½ years, have led to any serious complaint.

Mr. T. N. Ramakrishna Reddi : But what about the resolution of the European Chambers of Commerce ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : I am aware of that, but I think the actual experience, to which I am referring, is most significant.

The other point that I want to make as a preliminary is this. It has been said that the Government, in adopting this attitude, are adopting a very unreasonable attitude. I think I am correct in saying that there is no country in the world whose currency law permits the deliberate mutilation of its currency as we do in India. If we offer facilities, they are unique facilities. I believe I am correct in saying that in Australia such mutilation is even a penal offence. Now, Sir, that points to the fact—and I am sure all Honourable Members will admit this,—that the practice of remitting money by cutting notes is a very primitive practice, it is a practice which, I am sure, they would all like to see eliminated in the sense that they would like to see India come into line with all the civilized countries of the world and adopt more reasonable and businesslike methods for the remitting of money. I do not wish to weary the House by going into all the objections to this practice, but I would just like to point out one or two objections.

In the first place, the practice is adopted, because it enables people to send through the post notes in a form which they think relieves them from risk without following the usual practice as regards remittance of valuables, that is to say, without insuring those notes. Well, that in fact,—so I am informed,—puts a most unreasonable temptation in the way of the postmen who carry letters. If the notes were sent as whole notes, they would have to be insured, the formalities adopted would make it possible to trace the course of an insured envelope, and arrangements in that case are made for delivery to be taken actually at the window of the post office, so that the packet which contains the notes does not go out in the hands of an ordinary postman without any notice or without any distinction from ordinary packets. Those precautions are necessary in order to enable packets which contain valuables to be traced, but if valuable notes are sent in halves, uninsured in ordinary packets, then there is no way of tracing a loss when it occurs, and I am told that postmen can detect packets which contain half notes, and therefore, this practice does put an unreasonable temptation in the way of post office officials, and also, as I say, makes it impossible for the post office to detect fraud when it occurs.

Another point, of course, is that it enormously increases the work of all those who have to handle the notes when they are presented. I am told that, according to statistics, in the case of low value notes which are not cut, the tellers are able to work up to 8,000 pieces a day ; in the Bank of England they actually work up to 10,000. In the case of cut notes, the numbers on both sides have to be compared, and the two notes have frequently to be pasted together to avoid their coming apart at a later stage,—the result is that in the case of those notes,

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the sorters can only work up to 2,500 pieces. There are a great many other reasons which cause a great deal of increased expenditure, and I merely mention those as instances to illustrate the objectionable nature of this practice. But much more serious than that is the fact that if we were to revert to the old practice, the currency authority is placed in a very difficult position in dealing with claims, and although we have been able to support that position as long as the currency authority was the Government, it has been the considered view of the Government, ever since the question of setting up a Reserve Bank was mooted, that it would be essential to alter the position before the responsibility for the currency was transferred to a Reserve Bank. We feel that we could not possibly put on to the shoulders of a private institution the burden of maintaining the old practice. I would go further than that and say that we feel that we cannot really put on the Reserve Bank even the burden of maintaining the position as it is regulated by the present rules. I do not want to go into that in great detail because the suggestion that I have to make may perhaps put before the House a practical way of dealing with this matter. With regard to what my Honourable friend, the Leader of the Opposition, said, I want to make it quite clear that the Government, when they adopted these new rules in 1927, did so with the deliberate intention of discouraging the use of cut notes. They felt that it would be rushing matters too much, in fact the time had not arrived for prohibiting the practice altogether, but they definitely wanted to make it unattractive to remit money by means of cut notes. That purpose has been to some extent fulfilled. It is very difficult to give the exact figures because there are so many sources from which returns come, but roughly speaking, I think the position is this. A few years ago something over 70 per cent. of the 100-rupee notes that were presented were presented cut. I wonder if Honourable Members realise that, because nobody can cut a 5-rupee or 10-rupee note,—that is not permitted,—and 50-rupee notes are hardly used at all. So, this practice really begins with 100-rupee notes, and as I say, over 70 per cent. of the notes that were presented were presented in a cut form. Recent statistics show that the percentage is going down to somewhere between 30 and 40 per cent. so that there has been a substantial decline in that practice. That is our position—that originally in 1927 the rules were tightened up in order to discourage the practice and that, now that the actual setting up of the Reserve Bank is coming so near, we now feel that the time has come to review the position, and if it has to be changed at all, that it ought to be changed in the direction of tightening them up.

The position that I want to put to the House is this. This matter will naturally come up for consideration in the Select Committee on the Reserve Bank Bill if this House agrees to the proposal to refer that Bill to a Select Committee. I think that it would be suitable that the Select Committee of the two Houses should have an opportunity at least of considering the question. I would ask the House to take that into account with regard to a resolution of this kind. My own idea is that the Select Committee on the Reserve Bank Bill might propose—and I would very sympathetically consider the proposal—that a small expert committee should be set up to consider what is the right thing to do now in relation to this practice. I quite recognise that it cannot be imme-

diately terminated. I quite recognise that something of the kind will have to continue for some time to come.

On the other hand, we want to consider it in relation to the position as it will be when the Reserve Bank is set up. If such a committee were set up, I would suggest that it should consider two points : first of all, what should be the nature of the rules regarding the use of cut notes, and secondly, whether the other facilities, the normal facilities, for remitting money are sufficient, and, if not, whether there is any action that the Government could take in order to increase those facilities. I quite recognise that the two points must be considered together. If we are going to restrict facilities of remitting money by cut notes, then we must satisfy ourselves that the facilities for remitting money in other ways are reasonably adequate. I think that some of those Honourable Members who have spoken on the existing facilities have not been quite fair to those facilities. There are, after all, something like 10,000 post offices in existence through which money can be sent, and money can be sent without risk by insuring that money. I know, of course, that my Honourable friend from Madras thinks that the insurance charges are too high. Possibly that may be so ; possibly the insurance charges are capable of reduction. The actual insurance charges through the post office amounts now to something like one-eighth per cent., and I believe that my Honourable friend, whose bank has, I understand, after this actual experience, desisted from the practice of sending money by cut notes and adopted the practice of sending it by whole notes, has been able to arrange for insurance with an insurance company at a premium of one-thirtysecond per cent. I believe I am correct in making that statement. I do not think that that is an unreasonable charge. If insurance companies are willing to assess the risk of sending packets through post office at that rate, possibly the postal authorities might themselves do something to reduce the present charges. I merely throw that out as a possibility, but I would certainly say this that the Government would not wish to do anything to discourage the facilities for remitting money which really are necessary for the encouragement of the banking habit.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad (Patna and Chota Nagpur *cum* Orissa : Muhammadan) : What will be the fate of those cut notes which are already in rural areas ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : I am afraid I do not understand my Honourable friend's question.

Mr. M. Maswood Ahmad : There are very many cut notes in the rural areas in the possession of the public. What will be the fate of those notes ? Will those notes be taken by the Government and full payment made for them ? That question is very keen in Bihar.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : I am afraid I do not quite understand the point of my Honourable friend's question. At present the rules as regards cut notes are well known and something would have to be done, as I have said, to continue the practice of making payment on half notes as we do at present. In other respects the provisions might have to be tightened up. But as I am not myself proposing any definite means of tightening them up I cannot answer my Honourable friend's very hypothetical question as to what the position of these particular half notes would be. That would be a matter for consideration by an

[Sir George Schuster.]

expert committee if an expert committee is set up in the way that I have suggested.

Now, Sir, I quite recognise that the suggestion that I have made does not meet the point of my Honourable friend from Madras. My Honourable friend I think is concerned with recovering a sum of something like Rs. 1,75,000 which has been lost. I certainly do not want to retain my Honourable friend's money. We did not introduce these rules for the purpose of making money out of them, and I might remind the House in passing that, even if we did retain that money, it would be of very little benefit to me or my immediate successor because we should not take credit for that money for something like 30 or 40 years. Therefore the sum in question would interest the Finance Member of the distant future. But in any case, it is not the intention of these rules that the Government should make money out of them. I quite recognise that my Honourable friend's position of having lost this money is very unsatisfactory. On the other hand, if we were to reopen the question and do anything on the lines suggested in one of the clauses of one of the amendments that the rules should be relaxed retrospectively, we should defeat the whole object, which we have already been able to achieve, of to some extent discouraging this practice. Therefore, I do not think that we could consider any question of reopening hard cases until we had secured the position by new and clearer rules. Therefore, the most that I can say to my Honourable friend is that if as a result of the work of this expert committee it was possible to devise clearer and more restricted rules which would regulate the position for the future, then I might be willing to consider looking into hard cases that had occurred in the past. I want to be cautious about this. Before committing myself in any way it will be necessary to inquire how many cases it will be necessary to reopen. My Honourable friend will understand that we could not make an exception in his favour. But we should have to limit ourselves in some way so as to make this a workable proposition and I would remind the House that the total number of transactions in claims on half notes that are dealt with in the currency offices every year average something like 4,500, so that we would have to go into the question of how many cases it would be necessary to reopen, if we met my Honourable friend's position sympathetically. That is Government's position. We feel that this is a serious question and the time has now come when it must be considered. Therefore I am very glad that this Resolution has been moved, so that the attention of Honourable Members might be called to it. But if it is considered it should not be considered in a one-sided way. It must be considered, having regard to what really are in the best interests of the country and having regard to the fact that a Reserve Bank will have to be set up in the very near future and that they will have to take on all the difficulties which are created by the continuance of this practice. I, therefore, suggest that the matter should be left for discussion in the Select Committee on the Reserve Bank Bill and it is our intention that that committee should recommend the setting up of a small and expert committee to go into the whole question, to consider whether the rules should be tightened up, if so in what form and if they are tightened up, whether the other remittance facilities are adequate and if not whether anything can be done to make them more adequate. I think that is meeting the views that have been

expressed on the other side very reasonably and I trust that my Honourable friends will consider this an adequate response to the effort which they have made in order to call attention to this matter and that my Honourable friends will withdraw the Resolution and the amendments.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury (Bengal : Landholders) : I want to put one question. If the decision goes against the recommendation contained in the Resolution, will the Government consider the particular case which has now been mentioned by my friend, Mr. Pandya.

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : I have already made my position clear. We cannot re-open that case as long as the existing rules are in force, because to do so would defeat the object of the rules, but if new rules are devised which make the position absolutely clear for the future, then we might be ready to consider dealing with hard cases under the existing rules.

Mr. D. K. Lahiri Chaudhury : If the decision is against us, then what will be the position ?

The Honourable Sir George Schuster : I cannot carry the matter any further than that.

Mr. Muhammad Muazzam Sahib Bahadur : In view of the assurance given by the Honourable the Finance Member, and in view particularly of the fact that he is setting up an expert committee to go into exceptionally hard cases, I would ask the leave of the House to withdraw my Resolution.

The Resolution was, by leave of the Assembly, withdrawn.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, the 1st September, 1933.